

Hafa Adai!

USCG opens Guam port as part of recovery operations. [PAGE 6](#)

FEMA coordinates with a network of volunteer groups. [PAGE 7](#)

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

'Lest we forget'

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**

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CORRESPONDENT

Community members gathered yesterday at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi for the annual Memorial Day ceremony that honors and remembers family members, friends and the many other military service members who have sacrificed their lives in service of the nation.

Led by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M.

See **LEST** on Page 4



Dignitaries, veterans, and service members led by two members of Saipan Southern High School's JROTC Manta Ray Battalion join Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang in laying a wreath during the Memorial Day ceremony yesterday at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GPD joins Kagman shooting probe

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the 7-year-old victim of a shooting incident in Kagman now in Guam for emergency surgery, that has gotten the

Guam Police Department involved in the investigation.

In a recent statement from Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clement Bermudes, he said the Guam

Police Department is now involved in the investigation, even as DPS continues with its own probe.

"We're working with the Guam Police Department because the victim is [in] Guam

See **GPD** on Page 4

Subpoena for Torres' financial records opposed

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

123

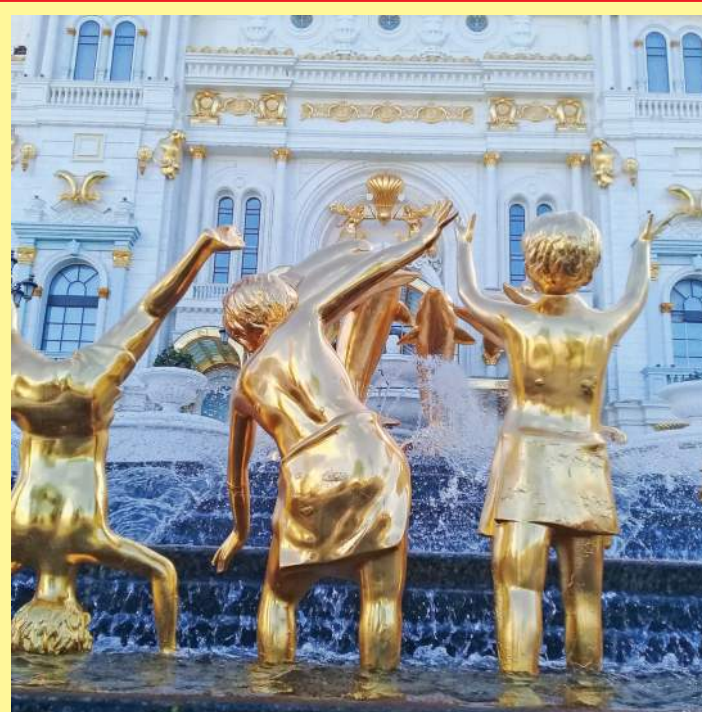


By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

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REPORTER

The defense team of former governor Ralph DLG Torres is opposing the Office of the Attorney General's request for a subpoena that would compel the former governor to produce his financial

See **TORRES** on Page 4



'IPI pays DPL \$150K, but still owes \$279K'

» IPI has yet to cure other violations
» DPL working with OAG about IPI's alleged failure to cure violations over land lease agreement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has paid \$150,000 to the Department of Public Lands but still owes DPL \$279,000 in security deposit and outstanding debt over alleged violations of their land lease agreement.

See **IPI** on Page 4



INSIDE



LOCAL

Cargo operations at the Port of Guam are continuing around the clock to maximize throughput.

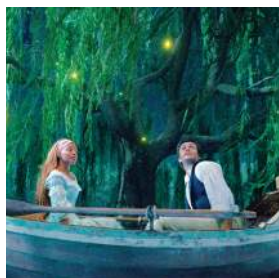
PAGE 2



WORLD

Ukraine's capital is subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

"The Little Mermaid" made moviegoers want to be under the sea on Memorial Day weekend.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

CUC updates on power, water services restoration on Rota

Due to storm conditions caused by Typhoon Mawar, power and water service interruptions are currently affecting customers for the island of Rota.

POWER

■ The CUC Power crew has restored power service to an estimated total of 744 or approximately 79% of CUC customers.

■ An estimate of 25 customers remain without

power service in the Songsong area due to a damaged/down power pole.

■ An estimate of 67 customers remain without power service in the District-4/ Songsong Housing area due to 3 damaged/down power poles.

■ An estimate of 25 customers remain without power service in Songsong/District 1 and 2 due to isolated hardware issues.

■ An estimate of 41 customers remain without power

service in the Sinapalo 1 area.

■ An estimate of 33 customers remain without power service in the Chenchun, Gampapa, and Du'gi area due to a damaged/down power pole.

■ Less than 10 customers in the Sinapalo 3 and Ginalagan area remain without power service due to isolated hardware issues.

WATER

A "boil water" notice remains in effect for the island of Rota.

■ Do not drink the water without boiling it first. Bring all water to a rolling boil for at least three minutes, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

■ A boil water notice was issued at 4pm last Sunday.

■ Water service is online for the island of Rota, except for three customers in the Teneto area and two customers in the Chenchun area.

■ Ginalagan residents at the end of the water system may experience low or no water pressure.

■ CUC water crew continue to repair leaks caused by the storm. Customers may experience intermittent services as the leaks

are being repaired.

■ Water Filling Station 1 water filling station opened at the Ginalagan Tank (limiting 50 gallons per customer). Filling station available from 7am to 7pm.

For more information, contact CUC's automated hotline at (670) 236-4333 or visit www.cucgov.org and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For utility emergencies, call (670) 664-4282. (PR)

Matson's cargo operations at Guam port continue

» **Matson resumes weekly schedule**

Cargo operations at the Port of Guam are continuing around the clock with the Guam Port Authority allocating extra personnel to maximize throughput. The port's open-gate hours on the Memorial Day holiday yesterday were from 8am to 15pm to ensure deliveries flow into the community.

Matson's vessel *Manunawili* 234W is expected to complete discharge and de-

part yesterday evening, making way for the next vessel arrival. Refrigerated containers have remained fully powered throughout its voyage and in the terminal before delivery to customers.

Matson's weekly Guam arrival schedule is set to resume this week with the next two Guam voyages remaining on time. *Manoa* 483W is expected to arrive today, May 30, and *Manukai* 237W is showing an ETA the following Tuesday, June 6.

As a result of the recent

deployment of Matson's two newest Con-Ro vessels, *Matsonia* and *Lurline*, into the company's CLX service, each of these ships will call Guam every five weeks, adding regularly scheduled roll-on/roll-off capabilities for Matson customers.

If customers have any questions, they are encouraged to contact their Matson account executive or Matson's Customer Service Center at 1-800-4-MATSON (800-462-8766) or customerservice@matson.com. (Matson)



U.S. COAST GUARD/CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor escorts the Matson cargo vessel *Manunawili* into Guam as crews continue recovery operations in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas on May 28, 2023.



Congratulations 2023 GRADUATES

You did it! We're proud of all you've accomplished and we've prepared a special promotion exclusively for you to recognize your achievements.

Great Harvest Specials

Promo Duration: May 19 - June 15
24hrs minimum order required

- **Round Cake** - \$16.95
(Your choice: Taro or Chocolate Flavor)
With personalize short message
- **Cookie Lei** - \$14.99

Surf Club Restaurant Specials

Promo Duration: May 19 - June 4
Free Mini Pumpkin Pie plus any Appetizer with every purchase of 4 entrees

Present any photo of your Certificate of Completion to avail our promotion
* See posters for more details



Make your reservations today! Surf Club Restaurant: (670) 235-1122 • Great Harvest Bread Co.: (670) 234-2733

Bermudes: DPS notes rise in number of property thefts

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

There are currently over 20 unsolved homicide cases in the CNMI and that there is also an increasing number of property theft cases on Saipan, according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clement R. Bermudes on Friday.

In an appearance before

the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee to go over the DPS proposed budget for fiscal year 2024, Bermudes said that some of the over 20 unsolved homicide cases go back to the '70s.

In response to questions from Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), the commissioner said there are currently 35 personnel assigned to



Bermudes

the Criminal Investigation Division and that number is not enough. He said 40 to 50 personnel for CID is actually the perfect number because there has been an increasing number of property theft cases that require investigators.

The commissioner said this increase in the number of theft cases means they need to shift resources within CID because they cannot just

pull somebody from Patrol or Traffic to be detectives.

He said CID investigators include their crime scene investigators too.

As to the question of how DPS plans to tackle the increasing number of theft cases in Kagman, Bermudes said the ideal approach is to dedicate three officers in that area and revive the police substation, colloquially referred to as a koban.

Bermudes underscored the need to maintain patrol in Kagman as well as in Koberville, Dandan, the central part

of the island, and the northern part of Saipan. The commissioner said that dedicating officers specifically for these zones is important so they know the community.

Bermudes said that, as he continues to reassess and shift resources within the department, he's trying to figure out when is the right time to actually dedicate officers with what they have. He said they are mindful, though, that as they start dedicating officers to specific areas, that will take personnel away from regular patrol.

"And here we are again

with excessive overtime. Overtime is [going to] grow if I do that," he said.

He said his job is to focus on the crime crisis and to prevent it.

In his opening statement, Bermudes said they have controlled overtime and implemented controls to ensure that the safety and security of the community is maintained while also ensuring that follow-up cases and investigations are continued.

"Because we owe every victims of crimes the closure or some form of closure in that regard," he added.

Barcinas is named to the CHCC board; Joab is appointed to CSC

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has appointed Mariah Barcinas to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees, and Michele Olopai Joab to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission.

If confirmed by the Senate, Barcinas, who will represent Rota on CHCC board, will serve the remaining of a six-year term that will expire on June 22, 2027.

In Joab's case, if she is confirmed by the Senate, Joab will serve the remain-

der of a six-year term that will expire on Jan. 9, 2027. Joab will represent Saipan, the Northern Islands, and the Carolinian community on the CSC.

Saipan Tribune learned that Barcinas, who is from Rota, works on Saipan at the Division of Youth Services.

Saipan Tribune learned that Joab used to work for the CNMI's Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency many years ago and that her background is human resources. (Ferdie de la Torre)

OAG 2022 report: Substantial progress in executing arrest warrants for cases of felony, family violence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Manibusan

The Office of the Attorney General's 2022 Annual Report shows that its Criminal Division made substantial progress in executing arrest warrants for felony cases and all cases involving family violence.

In the OAG's report for 2022 that was submitted to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan

stated that they drafted a number of key legislations in their work with the Legislature to improve the enforcement of the CNMI's criminal laws, child support, and others to bring the Commonwealth up to par with other states and territories.

"As we move forward, the Office of the Attorney General will keep focus on keeping our community safe and secure and continue to provide legal services and tools to assist the Executive Branch and agencies of our government perform their duties to the highest level," said Manibusan in the report.

See OAG on Page 4

Pre-retirement seminar for Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers and retirees



All Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers and retirees in the CNMI are being informed that there will be a pre-retirement seminar scheduled for July 1, 2023, at the U.S. Army Reserve Center Saipan from 8:30am to 2pm.

Prospective attendees must have at least 15 qualifying years toward your Army Reserve or National Guard retirement or have already been transferred to the Gray Area Retired Reserve and are awaiting age 60 (or earlier if qualified) to apply for retired pay.

The seminar's topics will include:

■ My Army Benefits, Retirement Qualifications, 20 year letter – Now what?

■ Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plans/Survivor Benefit Plan

■ Retirements Points

■ Transferring to the Retire Reserve

■ Applying for Retired Reserve

■ Veteran Affairs Benefit

■ Tricare

Spouses are highly encouraged to attend.

Scan QR code to register or type the following into a web browser: <https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/anim>.

NATIONAL SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT MOBILIZATION

MAY 22 - JUNE 4, 2023

Seat belts have been proven to be one of the best ways to save your life in a crash. Yet, many still don't buckle up. Worse still, not wearing a seat belt is a habit that will pass on to impressionable youth who, in turn, will think it is safe to not buckle up. The Click It or Ticket campaign focuses on safety education, strong laws, and law enforcement support to save lives.



Crime/Crash Clock 2020 Values

Crime

- 1 murder every **24.4** minutes
- 1 violent crime every **24.7** seconds
- 1 property crime every **4.9** seconds
- 1 burglary every **30.5** seconds

Crash

- 1 traffic fatality every **14** minutes
- 1 traffic injury every **14** seconds
- 1 property damage crash every **9** seconds
- 10** law-enforcement reported crashes every minute



Data Source:

Crime - Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2020 Crime Clock Statistics, Crime in the United States (10/16/2021)

Crash - NHTSA 2020 Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS)

15482d-033122-v1



For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety

SAIPAN 664-9125/9084/85 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9350

www.dps.gov.mp

LEST

From Page 1

Apatang, and Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, they were joined by other dignitaries, veterans, and guests in laying wreaths at the Veterans' Cemetery, which was soon followed by many individuals visiting the graves of their loved ones and offering them flowers and mementos.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clement Bermudes, who is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and was the event's keynote speaker, highlighted what he called the three R's: Reminder, remember, and responsibility. "Today is a Day of Remembrance. We remember those that have fallen, those that have never made it home."

Bermudes shared that moments like these are also a reminder to reflect and remember the sacrifices of not only the fallen service members but also recognizing the sacrifices of their families. "With that in mind, as a community we must seek to live responsibly, knowing that our freedom



was paid for with the blood of these brave men and women. ... We have a responsibility as a living to live a life worthy of their sacrifice," he added.

In his opening remarks, Palacios acknowledged the sacrifices of these fallen heroes. "Today, let us not just remember how they perished but remember how they lived, their dreams, their hopes. We re-

member them as soldiers, but more importantly, individuals who have loved laughed and lived. Their sacrifices continue to shape our Commonwealth and our country..." he said, "As the recipients of their sacrifices, we honor them by upholding the values they defended."

A light sprinkling of rain added to the solemnity of the ceremony, but

it soon cleared up for the traditional memorial tribute and laying of the wreath. A DPS team also performed a 21-gun salute.

One of those visiting a loved one's gravesite yesterday was Jonathan Kapileo, who believes Memorial Day is important "because they gave their lives to have us be where we're at now." Although the Memorial Day holiday is not an everyday event,

Kapileo said it is a time to remember the sacrifices of those who gave their life for the country. "I think they deserve that respect," he added.

Ian Otobed said his nephew died in the line of duty just last year and was among those recently buried at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery. He said he would spend his Memorial Day with his family and friends and take time to go over some photos and videos, reflecting on the memories he has of his nephew. "It's really important to remember all our fallen heroes. We enjoy today's freedom because of them so it's really important for us," Otobed added.

During their remarks at the ceremony, Palacios and Bermudes encouraged the community to continue to remember, not only on Memorial Day, but everyday, that the freedoms everyone enjoys today was purchased through the blood of many brave souls.

"I pledge to live by the values they defended and build a Commonwealth they would be proud of. God bless you all. God bless our fallen heroes and God bless the Commonwealth and the United States of America," said Palacios.

TORRES

From Page 1

records as discovery in his ongoing criminal case.

The OAG has asked the Superior Court for a subpoena *duces tecum* to obtain Torres' Bank of Guam account records. This type of subpoena essentially requires a person to produce certain documents, records, or other tangible items in their possession, custody, or control.

However, in opposing the subpoena, Torres, through his defense team, has asked the Superior Court to quash the request.

"The subpoena *duces tecum* should be quashed as it is clearly for discovery purposes," the defense stated.

According to Torres' lawyers, the subpoena ultimately does not comply with the law.

"It lacks any showing that the requested documents are relevant to, or necessary to prove, any issue in the 13 counts currently pending in [this case]," the defense stated.

It noted that the subpoena improperly directs the documents to be handed over to the OAG rather than the court.

"Additionally, the subpoena is not authorized by law as the special prosecutor's appointment, contract, and

admission status are invalid, which means the validity of the subpoena depends, upon other things, on the validity of the special prosecutor's appointment, contract, and admission status. Until the validity of the special prosecutor's appointment, contract, and status is resolved, the subpoena cannot be deemed to be authorized by law," the defense team said.

The defense also argues that the prosecution is simply saying it wants to investigate Torres' expenditures because it wants to and not because it is related to any legitimate law enforcement inquiry.

"Neither the subpoena nor the notice served on [the defendant] identifies a compelling governmental interest [that] justifies the intrusion into Mr. Torres' confidential and private bank records. The failure to show a compelling governmental interest warrants quashing the subpoena for financial records and information," the defense said.

Also, Torres' attorneys argued that because Torres is married, the subpoena does not make any effort to protect his wife's privacy interest in the marital bank account.

"Mr. Torres is married, which makes the bank account subject to the subpoena marital property under Commonwealth law. The Common-

wealth's subpoena does not make any effort to protect Diann's privacy interest in the marital bank account and, even more so, is not narrowly tailored to 'weed out' or preclude governmental intrusion into transactions related to Torres' wife, family matters, and other matters unrelated to whatever is the compelling governmental interest, if any," the defense stated.

Lastly, Torres' lawyers argue that because Commonwealth law dictates that a person's bank account number is confidential, quashing the subpoena is warranted as the prosecution did not redact Torres' bank account number when requesting a subpoena.

"The Commonwealth only acquired Mr. Torres' Bank of Guam account number through the performance of official duties. Neither Mr. Torres nor the Bank of Guam gave written consent for the disclosure of the bank account number. The public disclosure, therefore, is unauthorized. This unauthorized public disclosure results from the prosecution's failure to redact the bank account number as required by NMI [law]. The prosecution not redacting the bank account number in the filing with this court is not only unauthorized but is also a violation of the constitutional privacy right. These warrant quashing the subpoena," the defense team said.

IPI

From Page 1

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry yesterday, DPL Secretary Tere-sita A. Santos said that IPI, which is the exclusive Saipan casino licensee, also has yet to cure the violations they were being cited by DPL.

Santos said that DPL is right now working with the Office of the Attorney General concerning IPI's failure to resolve the unresolved violations.

She said IPI wrote two weeks ago a first check in the amount of \$30,000, then wrote last week a second check for \$120,000.

Santos said the \$30,000 check

has already been cleared, but the \$120,000 has yet to clear as of yesterday.

She said if the \$120,000 check is cleared, IPI still owes \$279,000. If the second check fails to clear, that would mean IPI owes \$399,000.

Before the payments, IPI owed DPL \$250,000 in security deposit and \$179,000 in outstanding debt, for a total of \$429,000, Santos said.

Last March 31, Santos issued a notice of violation to IPI for failing to remit \$250,000 to DPL to replenish the required security deposit, among other alleged violations of the land lease agreement.

According to DPL's notice of violation, Santos informed IPI president Lingli Cai that failure to cure the

listed violations within 30 days will place IPI in automatic default of the lease and that DPL will be forced to take corrective action.

The notice was issued despite IPI's remittance of \$150,000 in lease rental to DPL and submission of its revised appraisal report dated Nov. 7, 2022, and the 2021 audited financial statement prepared by accounting firm Burger, Comer, and Magliari on Nov. 16, 2022.

Santos stated in the notice that despite IPI's payment of \$150,000 and submission of documents last Nov. 16, the company failed to cure the other violations as provided in DPL's Oct. 18, 2022, notice of default issued by then-DPL secretary Sixto K. Igisomar.

GPD

From Page 1

so we're coordinating an investigation with them," he said.

The 7-year-old boy had been playing with the firearm with another child over a week ago in Kagman when he accidentally discharged the gun, hitting himself in the face. The victim was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center and then had to be medically evacuated to Guam because he needed emergency surgery.

As the investigation into the case is still ongoing, Clement encouraged the community to control the spread of rumors related to the incident. One of those rumors is that the firearm in question was a registered service firearm. A DPS news release merely stated that the firearm was registered.

Bermudes did not deny nor confirm the rumor. Instead, he stated that there was another individual in the home with a registered firearm.

"Let's control the rumor until we can confirm things because there was another person who had a registered firearm, and the firearm was there too, so we need to confirm those things before we can release

the exact details of what happened. The matter is still under investigation. We will release more information once we've gotten confirmation. This is all about transparency and the community needs to know what's happening," he said.

Meanwhile, Bermudes encourages all with registered firearms to be responsible and to stow them securely when not in use, whether you are a law enforcement officer or not.

"Gun ownership is our right, but more importantly, we should know the responsibilities that come with owning a gun. Similar for law enforcement, but they are held at a higher standard. Secure firearms if they are not in service. If it's not being used in service, make sure these guns are locked away and secured," he said.

According to the DPS press release, police responded to the incident in Kagman on May 21, at about 9:55pm.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the child and another minor were playing inside a relative's home when one of them somehow got hold of the gun. While handling the firearm, one of the children accidentally discharged the weapon. The injured child is currently in stable condition and is expected to recover.

OAG

From Page 3

According to the report's criminal case statistics, of the 6,500 new cases, the bulk were traffic cases with 5,985. There were 194 felonies, 293 misdemeanors, and 28 juvenile cases, for a total of 515 criminal cases.

A total of 6,275 cases were received on Saipan, 67 on Rota, and 158 on Tinian.

By offenses, the bulk of the cases were crimes against persons/family violence with 206. The second highest were general crimes, 148; followed by property crimes, 94; drugs, 31; and firearms, five. No public cor-

ruption case was received.

On case status, 5,013 entered guilty pleas, 35 went to bench trials, 20 to jury trials, and 1,129 are pending.

Of the 35 bench trials, 26 were found guilty, seven were dismissed, one was acquitted, and one case is pending.

Of the 20 jury trials, none was found guilty, one was acquitted, and 19 are pending.

The OAG report stated that cases are being expedited through a program of making an early offer in exchange for waiver of a preliminary hearing and trial.

The OAG said the majority of criminal cases are successfully concluded with a guilty plea and agreed punishment recommendation.

Social Security expands outreach and access for SSI

» Campaign also targets underserved communities

The Social Security Administration has expanded its outreach to people in critical need of financial help who may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income.

SSI provides monthly payments to adults age 65 and older or to other adults—and children—with a disability or blindness who have limited income and financial resources.

SSI helps pay for basic needs like rent, food, clothing, and medicine.

“Helping eligible people access critical benefits, including SSI, is part of Social Security’s core mission,” said acting SSA commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi. “Underserved communities face additional challenges, like unreliable or no access to the internet and computers, that widen the divide. Social Security’s campaign strives to reach people in their communities to tell them about the eligibility criteria for SSI, and how to contact us online at www.ssa.gov/ssi or by phone

for more information or an appointment to apply.”

The campaign supports President Joe Biden’s Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

Social Security used data to identify and reach underserved communities in rural and urban areas across the country where it noted the greatest decline in SSI applications since the pandemic, and where the majority of people living in those zip codes are people of color and/or people living at or below the

150% federal poverty threshold.

Social Security’s campaign uses a variety of ways to reach people, including radio and television public service announcements, radio ads, mailers, bus shelter and other large signs, flyers distributed to local stores, and printed publications in several language options.

Social Security also is reaching more people online through social media, digital, YouTube ads, and search engine marketing.

Individuals who receive SSI may qualify for other financial help, including the Supplemental Nutrition As-

sistance Program (formerly known as food stamps), Medicaid, and discounted internet service through the Federal Trade Commission’s Affordable Connectivity Program. Individuals who receive Social Security benefits may also be eligible for SSI.

People with limited income and financial resources, and with access to the internet, should visit www.ssa.gov/ssi to learn more about SSI eligibility and request an appointment to apply for benefits. People without access to the internet can call Social Security’s National 800 Number at

1-800-772-1213 to speak with a representative.

In addition to this campaign, Social Security recently proposed simplifications to the SSI program when people are receiving food assistance. The proposed changes will simplify the rules, making it easier to understand and comply with program requirements. This will save time for the public and Social Security and improve the equitable treatment of food assistance within the SSI program. Social Security accepted comments about the proposed rule through April 17, 2023. (SSA)

Palau, UN ink CIP that will guide US System in Palau

KOROR, Palau—In a landmark development, the government of Palau and the United Nations signed the Country Implementation Plan, translating the aspirations of the people of Palau in line with the new Pacific UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023 – 2027, which will guide the work of the UN System in Palau for the next five years.

The United Nations held a number of consultations with the government of Palau, development partners, civil society and private sector to ensure their inputs are included and no one is left behind in the process of finalizing a CIP that will support Palau in reaching its 2030 sustainable development goals and help build a better future for the people of Palau.

Palau is the second Micronesian country, after the Federated States of Micronesia, to finalize and sign its CIP. Signed by Palau Minister of State Gustav Aitaro and UN Resident Coordinator



Aitaro



Van Hierden

Jaap van Hierden, the CIP will be actioned at the country level aligning UN engagements with national development priorities, including but not limited to, climate change, disaster risk preparedness, education, health and food security. It will also help tackle gender-based violence and inequalities, ensuring that no one is left behind. In ensuring that UN efforts align with national and regional development plans and aspirations, it took into account the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

Addressing the Joint Steering Committee, Aitaro thanked the UN team in Micronesia and noted the importance and time-

liness of the Country Implementation Plans.

“Signing of the CIP is a long awaited and critical milestone for Palau. CIPs will enable practical actions to battle climate change and multiple crises, while seeking to transition to a greener, bluer economy,” said Aitaro. “The CIP will enable us to leverage all programmes, funding and expertise of the UN agencies to achieve the SDGs and 2030 agenda.”

Van Hierden congratulated and thanked the Palau government for their continued support to the UN and reaffirmed the UN’s commitment to Palau.

“I would like to thank the government of Palau and other stakeholders for their collaboration with and support of the UN. Together we will work towards catching up on our 2030 sustainable development goals and address the impacts of climate change. In doing so, we will be guided by our imperative to “leave no one behind”

in enabling a prosperous and peaceful future for the people of Palau that is harmony with nature,” Van Hierden said.

The newly signed CIPs focus on strategic priorities jointly discussed between the government of Palau and UN System covering the period from Jan. 1, 2022, to Dec. 31, 2024. Specifically it details the UN agency footprint that currently comprises 17 UN agencies supporting over 120 projects or interventions with a combined investment totaling almost \$15 million across all the SDGs. Key beneficiaries at the country level would include women and girls, migrants and persons living in remote poor and rural communities. The primary mode of delivery is through capacity development, technical assistance, and service delivery. Specific attention is given to government priorities related to Ecosystems Management, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Strengthening Country Capacity and Systems. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • www.cnmports.com



NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be Board Committee Meetings on Friday, June 2, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Tinian Conference Center located in the Tinian Western Lodge in San Jose, Tinian. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

COMMITTEE AGENDAS

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 16, 2023)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Public-Private Partnership
 2. Request for Proposal for Owner Engineer Agent
- IV. New Business:
 1. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 16, 2023)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business
- IV. New Business:
 1. Department of Defense’s Proposed Tinian Harbor Improvements
 2. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE


- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 16, 2023)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business: None.
 1. Drug Policy
 2. Supervisor Evaluation
 3. Desk Audit/Performance Audit
- IV. New Business:
 1. Operations Department re-structure
 2. DRAFT Position Description for Grants Specialist
 3. Proposed changes to Personnel Rules and Regulations:
 - a. Sick Leave
 - b. Sick Leave Donation
 4. Revision of Rota’s Administrative Assistant Position Description
 5. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE


- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 16, 2023)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Audit Corrective Action Update
 2. Supplemental Budget Request: Rota Tractor & Mower
- IV. New Business:
 1. Supplemental Budget Request: Rota ARFF Shutters
 2. Supplemental Budget Request: Rota Pressure Washer System
 3. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport Bus Canopy Repairs
 4. Supplemental Budget Request: Port of Saipan Berth 103 Repairs
 5. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
 - a. Grants Report
 - b. Internal Auditor Report
- V. Executive Session
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

Barrie C. Toves Airport Facilities Chair
Ramon A. Tebuteb Financial Affairs Chair
Pete P. Reyes Seaport Facilities Chair
Joseph M. Diaz Personnel Affairs Chair



PUBLIC NOTICE




Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eighteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be an Emergency Meeting on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. via google meet at meet.google.com/tro-baqw-chx.


AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments¹
- III. New Business
 1. Waiver Request for 5 days (May 22-26, 2023)
- IV. Adjournment

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)



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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, June 2, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the Tinian Conference Center located in the Tinian Western Lodge in San Jose, Tinian. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (April 26, 2023)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- III. CORRESPONDENCES
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. Financial Affairs Committee (with Grants and Internal Auditor Reports)
 2. Airport Facilities Committee
 3. Seaport Facilities Committee
 4. Personnel Affairs Committee
- V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:
 1. Request for Proposal for Owner Engineer Agent
 2. Drug Policy
 3. Supplemental Budget Request: Rota Tractor & Mower
- VII. NEW BUSINESS:
 1. Operations Department re-structure
 2. DRAFT Position Description for Grants Specialist
3. Proposed changes to Personnel Rules and Regulations:
 - a. Sick Leave
 - b. Sick Leave Donation
4. Revision of Rota Administrative Assistant Position Description
5. Supplemental Budget Request: Rota ARFF Shutters
6. Supplemental Budget Request: Rota Pressure Washer System
7. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport Bus Canopy Repairs
8. Supplemental Budget Request: Port of Saipan Berth 103 Repairs

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation

IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

May 29, 2023

USCG opens Guam port as part of recovery operations

By DAVID GRAHAM and
SARA MUIR

U.S. COAST GUARD FORCES MICRONESIA/
SECTOR GUAM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of

the commercial maritime Port for Guam, opened the Port of Guam at 10:30am on Sunday, May 28, 2023, to all commercial and cargo traffic.

“This significant milestone marks a crucial step in the re-

covery process following the impact of Typhoon Mawar,” said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam. “I would like to thank all the crews, partners,



U.S. COAST GUARD/CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, and Capt. Michael Luckett, commanding officer of Naval Base Guam, discuss action items in inner Apra Harbor and prepare to welcome the 154-foot Fast Response Cutters back to Guam as they continue recovery operations in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on May 28, 2023.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

U.S. Coast Guard personnel deploy additional resources to Rota on a C-130 aircraft.

and families as we continue our deliberate effort to reconstitute our operations. We’ve come a long way in a short period resuming port activities and our Joint Rescue Sub-Center watch.”

The first three ships to arrive at the Port of Guam were the U.S. Coast Guard *FM/SG* 154-foot Sentinel Class Fast Response cutters returning from Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia, demonstrating the Service’s commitment to the region and restoring essential services.

Additionally, the Matson cargo ship *Maunawili* arrived escorted by U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor small boat crews, carrying much-needed groceries to support the community. Ad-

ditional vessels with fuel and liquefied propane gas will follow in the coming days.

A combined team consisting of personnel from U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, U.S. Coast Guard Regional Dive Locker Pacific, Maritime Safety and Security Team Honolulu, members of USCGC *Sequoia* (WLB 215) and U.S. Navy Explosive Ordinance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 whose participation was coordinated by the Navy Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer from the Navy Reserve Defense Support to Civil Authorities, Detachment Hawaii, has been working diligently. Their efforts have successfully relocated Outer Apra Harbor Buoy No. 2 from the middle of the entrance channel, ensuring safe passage for incoming traffic on May 27. In addition, they conducted underwater surveys of transit channels and piers to identify and remove any obstructions. Work continues to restore services at the unit fully.

“Our thanks to the U.S. Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, who cleared all the fallen trees from around the U.S. Coast Guard property Saturday, and a shout out to the crew of USCGC *Sequoia* (WLB 215) and our engineering who continue to restore our facilities and get things working,” said Simmons.

Pollution response teams are actively assessing vessels in Guam’s marinas for potential pollution and addressing any sunken vessels.

“We are collaborating closely with our port partners as they evaluate their facilities and piers, working towards [sic] resuming their operations,” said Simmons. “The Port of Guam issued a statement providing updates on

cargo operations and ongoing restoration efforts, and we are working to support those efforts while ensuring safety and regulatory compliance.”

Furthermore, U.S. Coast Guard *FM/SG* is preparing a pollution responder to attend Rota for damage and pollution assessments. This collaborative effort involves working closely with the Department of Public Safety and the Mobil fuel facility to address any environmental concerns.

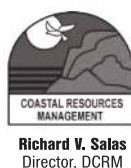
As the recovery and reconstitution efforts continue, the U.S. Coast Guard and first responders remind the public to prioritize water safety. While the restoration process progresses, there are still potential hazards in the water, including debris and unpredictable currents. The U.S. Coast Guard strongly advises individuals to exercise caution and adhere to all safety guidelines while refraining from unnecessary water activities, allowing our responders to focus on the full restoration of services.

“The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam team extends our deepest gratitude to the community for their resilience and cooperation throughout this challenging period,” said Simmons. “We will continue to provide updates as progress is made, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by Typhoon Mawar in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

The team will provide further updates as more information becomes available and continue to coordinate with the Joint Information Center. The JIC can be reached at Information Center at +1 (671) 478-0208/09/10, and updates are posted to <https://ghs.guam.gov>.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
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www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF RENEWAL CRM WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMIT RENEWAL DEADLINE: MAY 30TH, 2023 NOTICE TO ALL CNMI MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS

THE DIVISION COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM) OF THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (BECQ-DCRM) WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL MARINE SPORT OPERATORS THAT RENEWAL OF YOUR WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMIT EXPIRES ON MAY 30TH, 2023. TO AVOID ANY INTERRUPTION OF YOUR WATERSPORTS ACTIVITIES, PLEASE SUBMIT **A COMPLETE CRM PERMIT APPLICATION** TO DCRM ON OR BEFORE THE MAY 30TH DEADLINE. TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION OF YOUR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION, PLEASE ATTACH ALL REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WITH YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION INCLUDING A COPY OF YOUR PAYMENT RECEIPT ISSUED BY THE CNMI TREASURY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION IS FINAL AND COMPLETE PRIOR TO SUBMISSION. SUBMISSION OF AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT.

DUE TO DCRM’S REGULATION CHANGES AFFECTING PERMIT AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES, DCRM WILL BE CHARGING FEES FOR RESUBMISSION OF A CRM PERMIT APPLICATION. THIS ADDITIONAL FEE IS APPLICABLE ONLY IF YOUR APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED AND FOUND TO BE INCOMPLETE AND RETURNED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT MR. NEIL TAISACAN AT ntaisacan@dcrm.gov.mp OR MS. PRIMROSE TAITANO AT ptaitano@dcrm.gov.mp OR, BY CALLING (670) 664-8300.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the
Matter of the
Petition for the
Change of
Name of: FCD CN CIVIL
ACTION NO.
22-0227

JESSE ALDAN
DELEON • NOTICE OF
GUERRERO, JR., • HEARING

Petitioner. •

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on **June 5, 2023** at **9:00a.m.**, in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this **16th** day of May, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

FEMA coordinates with a network of volunteer groups



U.S. AIR FORCE/STAFF SGT. DIVINE COX

Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel arrive on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, on May 26, 2023. FEMA personnel arrived in Guam to assist with Typhoon Mawar relief efforts.

WASHINGTON—Crews continue to work to restore electricity and water service in the affected areas, with more than 65% of Guam's substations being restored and more than 70% of power restored in areas of Rota of the Northern Mariana Islands. Feeding and bottled water operations continue as needed and requested by the territory and the commonwealth officials.

Federal, territorial, commonwealth and local government personnel, and volunteer organizations continue responding to residents in Guam and CNMI to address key life-safety measures and to address recovery needs. As efforts switch from response to recovery, more personnel are on their way to the region to support emergency officials' efforts.

More than 500 FEMA personnel are supporting response and recovery efforts in Guam and CNMI, with more than 200 staff in Guam. FEMA is coordinating with its network of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters to provide support and humanitarian aid in the areas impacted by Typhoon Mawar.

■ Team Rubicon deployed a coordination team to Guam to assist officials with identifying unmet needs.

■ The Salvation Army, in partnership with the Southern Baptists Disaster teams, also deployed personnel to Guam where they are supporting local officials in recovery efforts.

■ Amazon Disaster Relief is delivering donations of water filters, mosquito netting and other essential items.

■ Catholic Charities is supporting three different on-island shelters and a local food pantry.

■ The Buddhist Tu Chi Foundation is collaborating with local restaurants to identify and provide feeding for survivors.

■ The American Red Cross of Guam hotline is operational: 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) for anyone trying to reach friends or relatives who are on the island. Red Cross volunteers are also

on the island helping support shelters and feeding missions.

Territorial, Commonwealth and voluntary actions

■ The Guam Power Authority continues its restoration efforts, reporting more than 65% of substations have been restored, with 16.2% of customer demand also restored. The authority is working on restoring substations, which will substantially increase power to more residents.

■ The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in the CNMI reports that it has restored power to 79% of its customers on Rota, while Saipan and Tinian are fully energized.

■ The Guam Waterworks Authority continues restoration efforts, reporting 47% of operable wells are online in the northern area. In addition to the four 60,000-gallon water tanks announced Saturday, the authority also deployed four more 6,000-gallon tanks,

with more planned.

■ Shelters remain open in Guam, with more than 800 survivors being served.

■ The A.B. Won Pat International Airport in Guam announced it will reopen to the public Monday, but passengers should expect delays as airlines continue to recover to pre-typhoon operations.

■ While commercial air traffic is pending, cargo flights continue arriving, including a humanitarian shipment scheduled yesterday carrying blood products, cleanup kits, work gloves, trash bags, collapsible mops and comfort kits including hygiene products.

■ The U.S. Small Business Administration deployed personnel to conduct assessments and support recovery efforts as needed.

■ The National Disaster Distress Helpline remains activated and anyone who has been affected by Typhoon Mawar can call 1-800-985-5990 for immediate counsel-



ing and support.

■ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers teams are deployed to Guam to assist with temporary emergency power, temporary roofing and debris management support. Additional personnel are providing public works and engineering technical expertise.

■ The Guam National Guard remains activated assisting local and territorial police with traffic control.

■ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has two health medical task force teams and one incident management team in Guam supporting health and medical assignments with local hospi-

tals and dialysis centers.

■ To learn more about the Typhoon Mawar response and recovery efforts, visit FEMA.gov

Residents should remain cautious, avoiding floodwaters and take precautions as they return home and begin cleanup efforts.

Safety messages

■ Residents who begin to clean up should wear protective clothing and wear appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris. Make sure to take pictures, if possible, of any damage in your home for insurance purposes.

■ As power remains un-restored in many areas, residents using power generators should always use them outside to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

■ For those seeking the status of family members or friends on the islands but are having trouble connecting, the communications and electrical systems are being repaired and stabilized at this time.

For real time updates, visit the following links for the latest information:

■ Guam Homeland Security: <https://ghs.guam.gov>.

■ CNMI Office of the Governor: <https://governor.gov.mp>. (**FEMA**)



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS FOR CUC TINIAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-015, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 12, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

A **Bid Guarantee** of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 22, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Evelyn Manglona, CUC Tinian Resident Manager, via email evelyn.manglona@cucgov.org, Louella Mundo, CUC Warehouse Technician via email louella.mundo@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, January 3, 2022, **Legacy Solutions, LLC (Cody T. and Tracy B. Norita)** applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Affordable Rental Housing Development Program. On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, Tracy B. Norita was appointed to serve as Department of Finance Secretary, for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Said applicant is aware of the housing needs of Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) families who have been affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. The CNMI has not been able to recover from this disaster quickly enough to meet the community's housing needs. The Legacy Solutions, LLC Rental Housing Development project proposes to build one (1) housing unit, consisting of three bedrooms. The proposed project will contribute to addressing some of the market demands for affordable housing and the current housing shortages our island is experiencing. Tracy B. Norita is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR § 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2023.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

One answer to the migration crisis? Jobs

The Biden administration's sensible new policy for asylum seekers—requiring them to submit applications in Latin American countries before arriving—seems to have preempted a wave of migration to the border, at least for now. But what about those the US has already legally admitted into the country, who are being blocked from doing what the American economy needs them to do: work?

People admitted into the country by US authorities should not be denied the chance to work...

Take, for example, migrants admitted under humanitarian parole. Under current policy, they can't work until they go through a backlogged authorization process that can last a year or more. With few other options, migrants barred from working legally may turn to under-the-table work or government relief programs, costing taxpayers money, straining local and state budgets, and fostering dependencies that run counter to the history of US immigration. Meanwhile, US companies are struggling to find workers, with 1.6 open jobs per available unemployed worker.

President Joe Biden can solve this problem by taking executive action to allow these migrants, who have been legally admitted into the country, to work legal jobs immediately—just as tens of thousands of Afghan refugees who have arrived in the US since 2021 have been able to. The rationale is the same: People admitted into the country by US authorities should not be denied the chance to work, which only hurts taxpayers, companies and the broader economy.

Democratic mayors around the country, who are some of Biden's strongest allies, have been frustrated by the administration's failure to offer them much help as thousands of migrants arrive in their cities with little means of legally supporting themselves.

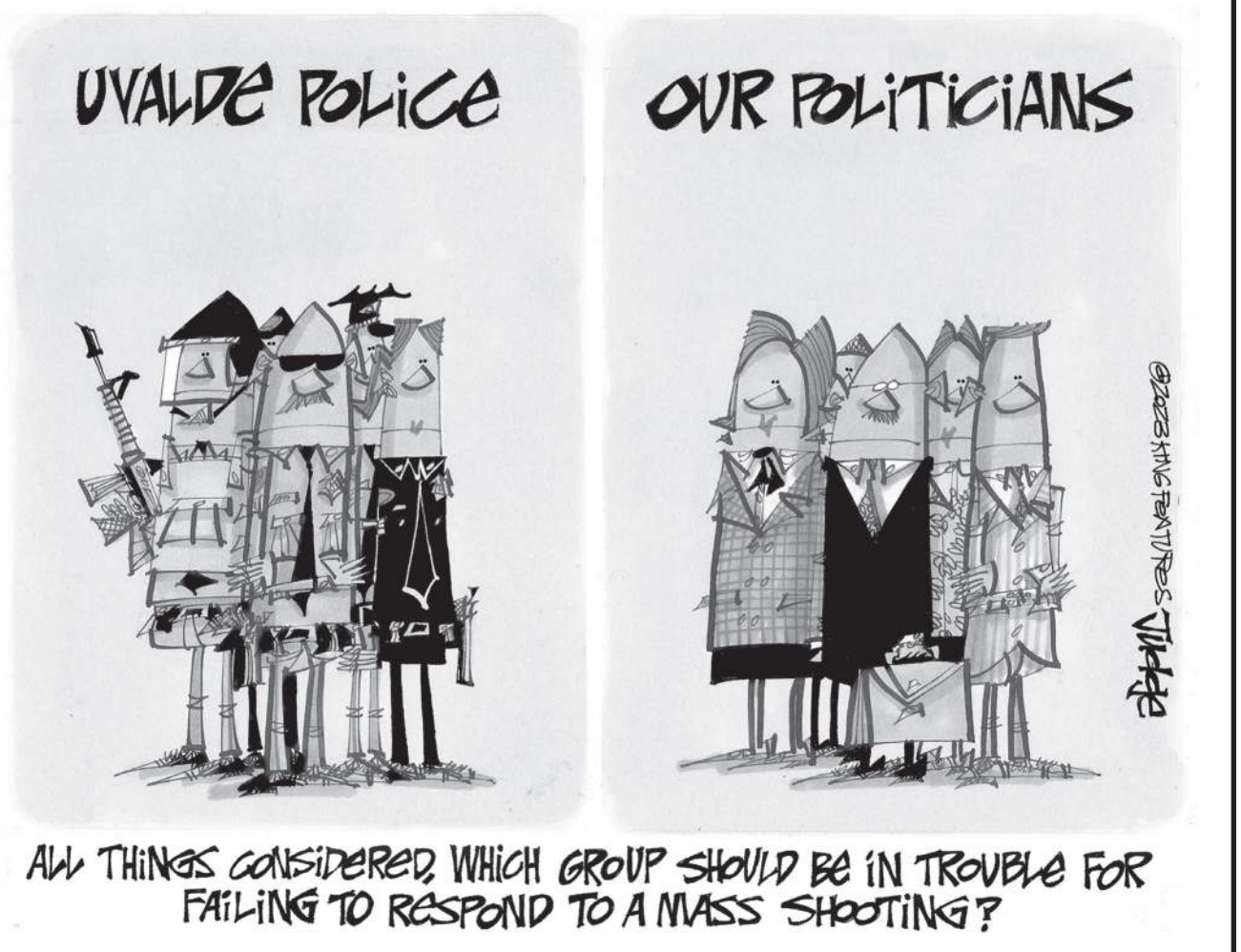
"To deny people the ability to work legally," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams, "sets them up for failure." This week, New York Governor Kathy Hochul stood with Adams and echoed that idea: "We have a historic labor shortage," she said. "We also have this unprecedented influx of individuals arriving in New York" who want to work. She urged the Biden administration to help the state solve both problems at once.

Granting work authorization to those here on humanitarian parole isn't the only step the administration can take. A variety of options are available, including expanding the list of countries eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

Critics will argue that this strategy could encourage more migrants to come to the border. But more powerful incentives—especially the shelter that cities like New York are required to provide—already exist, as do opportunities to work in the underground economy. Moving legally admitted migrants into on-the-books jobs would help the federal government keep track of their whereabouts while also ensuring that they pay their fair share of taxes.

To be sure, this is an imperfect solution. But so long as Congress refuses to fix a badly broken immigration sys-

See ONE on Page 9



What Gen Z teens like me are getting wrong about mental health

I grew up with a mom who's a therapist, which meant that feelings moved through the air in our home like oxygen. It's not that we talked about feelings all the time, or that I'd say something about my day and she'd ask, "How do you feel about that?"

Instead, it was more that no matter what I felt—sad, worried, mad, confused, lonely, whatever—it was never something to fix or make disappear. The world didn't stop when I was unhappy or uncomfortable. It was never a big deal. I'd just have to feel whatever I felt—good or bad—and that, my mom believed, was the key to emotional health.

But this isn't what I saw in many of my friends' families. Ironically, it was homes with no therapists in them where feelings were constantly monitored. If friends were upset that a teacher gave them a bad grade, or they were left out of a social event, their parents would spring into action. First, they'd try to fix it—by talking to the teacher, or calling another parent—and if that didn't work, they'd try to cheer up their kids by letting them have extra screen time or distracting them with a trip to the mall or allowing them to take off for what schools started calling a mental health day.

In my house, discomfort wasn't just OK, it was encouraged. We talked about coping with difficult feelings, not avoiding them or trying to make them go away with screen time, the food court or parental involvement. My mom's view was almost existential: Life is hard, and there's no way around that. But if you can get comfortable with discomfort, she told me, you'll be a more emotionally resilient person. If something upsetting happened to me, her typical response wasn't, "That's terrible! Let's figure out what to do!" She'd say, "I understand why you're upset" or just, "I'm sorry, and I'm here." She'd sit and listen and hear me out, but then we'd go on with our days.

"I want you to be comfortable with discomfort," my mom once said. It confused me at first, but then I understood: Because I'm OK with discomfort, I don't fall apart when life gets, well, uncomfortable.

Ever since the surgeon general sounded the alarm on youth mental health in 2021, parents and educators have been trying to figure out how to help teens in my generation who are struggling amid rising rates of depression and anxiety. That's an understandable goal. What worries me, though, is the possibility that many in my generation are confusing mental health issues with normal discomfort, to the point that the term "mental health" is becoming so diluted that it's starting to lose meaning.

Social media play a large role in this, promoting pseudo-technical

By **ZACH GOGGLIEB**
Los Angeles Times

Zach Gottlieb is the 17-year-old founder of *Talk With Zach* and a high school student in Los Angeles.



and pathologizing language—often leading to cancellation—as the antidote to emotional discomfort. Someone disagrees with you? They're "gaslighting" you! Someone has the "wrong" point of view or perspective? They're "toxic"! Someone declines to do what you ask? They have "no boundaries"! Instead of talking through these situations or trying to understand another perspective better, we run away to the supposed comfort of not having to deal with them. Click—they're blocked.

Colleges have disinvited speakers who might be triggering to some students or created "safe spaces" where students can go instead; students in high schools and middle schools can choose not to attend assemblies that might be triggering; TV shows and podcasts tell us in advance that we might be triggered by a certain topic discussed, so we should skip that episode in case it makes us uncomfortable. We strive to make everyone comfortable, all the time and in every way—an impossible goal.

All of the warnings are well-intentioned and supposedly in service of our mental health. And of course, many people my age face mental health stressors that go far beyond the disappointments and conflicts of daily life. Anxiety and depression are serious concerns that need to be addressed, and treatment should be encouraged and accessible.

But I wonder if, more broadly, we're normalizing an almost hyper-vigilant avoidance of anything uncomfortable. By insisting that the mere mention of something difficult is bad for our mental health, are we protecting ourselves from emotional damage—or damaging ourselves emotionally? Are we really that emotionally fragile, or are we teaching ourselves to become more fragile than we actually are?

Now, as a teenager, I appreciate that my mom didn't always try to smooth things out for me. It taught me that rather than avoiding something uncomfortable, it's often healthier to face it and see what happens. If we're to fully promote mental health, discomfort should be part of its definition.

2024 is not a 2016 rerun—Trump is a one-trick pony

By CHRISTOPHER NICHOLAS
INSIDESOURCES.COM

Those afraid that the 2024 GOP presidential contest will become a repeat of 2016 need not worry. The race is radically different this year; it will not play out the same.

First, former president Donald Trump is greatly diminished compared to 2015, when he first glided down his escalator in front of all those paid “volunteers.”
Second, the rest of next year’s budding GOP candidates are well-acquainted with the former president’s playbook and will know how to fight him.

Third, the “unstoppable” sheen that Trump once had has vanished after losses in every major election from 2018 onward. He must now labor under the worst label any politician can have: Loser.

Instead of a repeat of 2016, 2024 looks more like a continuation of what we saw in 2020: Trump cannot compete anywhere new, and he cannot put any new voters or states in play. In short, he’s playing a losing game of being able to attract only voters who had previously supported him.

While he can still persuade many GOP donors to send their hard-earned dollars to his campaign, his political message now falters more than it inspires. Plus, the party has produced a few non-Trump grievance candidates, so voters still attracted to that style of messaging now have options they didn’t have in 2016.

More GOP primary voters will cast strategic votes in the 2024 primary because they know we need a stronger general election candidate than Trump. And now the balance of the Republican field can’t be snuck up on, as so many of them were back in 2016.

Trump is a one-trick pony. His trick is a good one, but, simply put, his opponents know what’s coming.

(A word of advice to them: Don’t go easy on Trump out of fear that his voters won’t return to you in the fall. None of them will ultimately vote for President Joe Biden.)

Finally, Trump’s opponents know the American people have rejected him, not once but three times: In 2018, when the GOP lost the House; in 2020, when it lost the presidency and the Senate twice (on election night and again on runoff day in Georgia); and once again last year. Trump’s invincibility cloak is tattered, torn and useless.

This is driving the entry of so many new candidates and so much new funding.

And don’t forget the myriad legal issues Trump faces in multiple jurisdictions from local, state and federal prosecutors. Unlike the civil trial he legally skipped recently in New York, he would need to actually attend any criminal trial, say in Fulton County, Georgia, or in federal court. Besides sapping his time, this would forcefully reiterate to the country in general, and to Republican primary voters in particular, that Trump is damaged goods, on the decline and—most important—the only GOP nominee who could lose to Biden.

In 2016, Trump barely beat Hillary Clinton, the most compromised Democratic nominee in modern history. In 2020 he lost decisively to the second most compromised Democrat nominee. Let’s hope the other candidates in the Republican field act accordingly and that GOP voters realize our 2024 nomination needs to be stronger and more decisive.

Christopher Nicholas is president of Eagle Consulting Group Inc. and for the last six years has appeared as a conservative commentator on *This Week In Pennsylvania*, a TV show focusing on Pennsylvania politics. He wrote this for *Inside-Sources.com*.

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a son-net practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



In celebration of the conclusion of this month, I focus on three women poets from the Republic of the Philippines:

Ophelia Alacantara Dimalanta (b. 1932 – d. 2010) was a revered musician, poet, Ph.D. who wrote many poetry books and received many awards during her lifetime. Here is an excerpt from a poem by her on childbirth:

*“There will be no sleep. No twilight calm, no pain
No syllables but pure primal
Rhythmic knowing, an urgent
Forward flow, a powerful arched
Wave, love rhythm, leaves
Opening, opening.”*

Merlie Alunan was born in 1943. She’s a teacher in Leyte with five children and writes in Cebuano or Waray. Here’s an excerpt from a long poem by Merlie: *Tales of the Spiderwoman*

*“When your shadow crosses my door,
please enter without fear
But remember not to ask where I’d been
or what had fed me in this empty room
curtained with fine webs of silk.
Ignore the seethe of all my memories
Come, take my hand
I am human at your touch.”*

Luisa A. Igloria is originally from Baguio and is the author of 16 books. She served as the 20th Poet Laureate of the U.S. state of Virginia from 2020 to 2022. Here is a complete poem by her. A ghazal is an Arabic love poem with a recurring rhyme and a limited number of stanzas.

Ghazal, With Cow Burial
By LUISA A. IGLORIA

“There are only 31 horse burials in Britain and they are all with men.”

*Out of a pit, they’ve found a woman’s bones - whittled by time
bearded by dust, clutching the ambered remains of a cow.*

*Was she matriarch, widow, wife? Did she die struck by illness or blight?
archeologists say her wealth and status are proven by this cow.*

*Some days, I quip to friends and family: my name might as well be
Bob (short for Beast of Burden). But life’s yoke is heavier than a cow.*

*What would I want to take with me? In Chinese burials
the dead are ferried to the afterlife: not on cows*

*but in paper limousines with symbols for wealth: coins, bills, sweets,
cigars, what one liked here enough to take to there; but not a cow –*

*In the winding Cordilleras I call home, the dead are neatly tucked among
the hills, with jars of betel nut and agate beads – never with a cow.*

*A friend reminds me: in Hindu myth, should the population
be in danger, they’ll save the women, children, and the cows.*

*The cow that in this life was a cow, does it remain the same? Does it dream
of feathered grass in the fields, of gnats, the low symphony of fellow cows*

*chewing the cud? They poke at beetles the color of jewels -
embellishments on face plates of sleeping mummies. The cow*

*as sacrifice, as plenty, as months of food and fat and solid warmth.
And the woman: how was she loved, missed, valued more than cow? ”*

I sincerely hope readers will be inspired to check out more Philippine poets.

Social Security needs our help now

The Social Security Administration, the federal agency serving the largest number of Americans, is facing its worst crisis in decades, due to underfunding and under-staffing.

SSA currently provides retirement, survivor, or disability benefits to 70 million people each month. The number of beneficiaries went up 21% between 2010 and 2021. Yet, the size of SSA’s workforce shrunk by 13%, and the agency’s budget has been cut by 17% during this same period, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), a nonpartisan research institute.

With staffing at its lowest staffing level in more than 25 years, it now takes seven months to get an initial appointment with the SSA according to the CBPP. In addition, more than half of customer service calls go unanswered, and there are 4.2 million backlogged actions.

This year, SSA received just 55% of its requested budget increase, leaving it ill-equipped to upgrade outdated systems and improve hiring and retention.

As head of the union representing nearly 43,000 SSA employees, I can say for certain that SSA needs more money than the administration requested to rebuild the agency and begin providing citizens with the level of service they expect and deserve. We are urging Congress to increase SSA’s budget to \$17.4 billion in fiscal 2024.

Unfortunately, agency leaders are making the staffing crisis worse by refusing to abide by an executive order issued by President Joe Biden on his second day in office. It requires agencies to negotiate with labor unions over subjects such as staffing, technology, and methods and means of performing work that could help attract more candidates.

AFGE Council 215 President Rich Couture, the union’s chief negotiator in bargaining that began in April, said the agency “is in the midst of the worst public service crisis in memory caused by historic levels of employee attrition due to uncompetitive pay and benefits, exceedingly low employee morale, and overwhelming workloads.”

By EVERETT KELLEY
Progressive Perspectives

Everett Kelley is national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, which represents more than 750,000 federal and D.C. government workers



A ranking of federal agencies by the Partnership for Public Service named SSA the worst large agency to work for in the federal government. In a recent survey by the American Federation of Government Employees, more than eight in ten employees said they know someone who has sought therapy or medication to deal with work-related stress, while 8% of respondents said they know of a coworker who has committed suicide. Just over half of employees said they will consider leaving within the next year, mostly because of low pay.

“SSA and Congress must address this crisis and implement solutions focused on employee retention and improved customer service,” AFGE Council 220 President Jessica LaPointe told the media in April.

Acting Social Security Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi recently acknowledged the struggles facing the agency, admitting that current funding levels “are not sufficient to make the improvements we had hoped to be able to make” and predicted that the average processing time for disability benefit claims would get longer as the agency works through the backlog.

And with deep cuts on the table in default talks, Social Security could be facing steep budget cuts at the worst possible time. By the agency’s own estimates, retreating to 2022 funding levels—a 6% cut to current funding—would force SSA to close field offices, furlough and lay off staff, institute hiring freezes, and increase the average wait time for initial disability claims decisions from seven months to nine months.

It’s time for Congress to stop starving Social Security of the resources it needs to serve the public efficiently and effectively. SSA leaders must partner with the union to address deteriorating working conditions before more skilled employees walk out the door. Only by working together can we build what we all want—an SSA that delivers for the American people.

partnership with cities and states, to make the best of the situation.

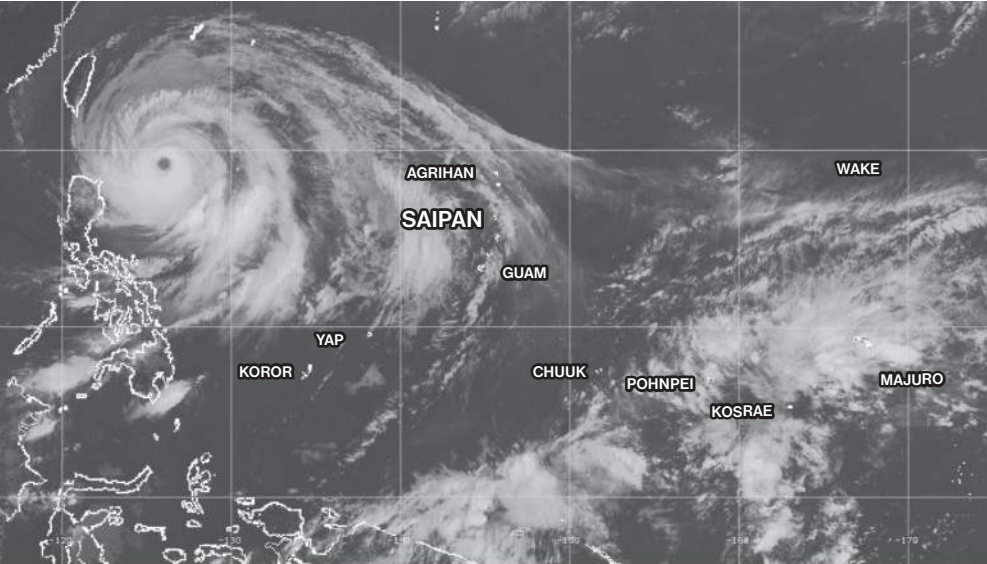
Voters in both parties agree that work is at the heart of the immigration experience. The White House should not stand in the way of upholding a tradition that has brought the nation so many benefits.

ONE
From Page 8

tem—including by increasing visas for the kinds of workers US companies need, from agricultural to high-tech—migrants will continue coming in large numbers, and it will be up to the White House, in

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		Isolated showers. The rain could be heavy at times. Mostly cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy		Isolated showers. Mostly cloudy	
86°	78°	84°	80°	85°	81°	84°	80°	85°	80°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:19 AM, MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An area of convergence to the east of Typhoon Mawar is creating scattered showers just west of the Marianas Waters. These showers are expected to move into the Marianas Waters, starting near Guam today and extending northward later. The Ipan buoy combined with model data reveal combined seas of 6 to 8 feet composed of a large west swell from Typhoon Mawar, a smaller trade-wind swell of 4 to 6 feet, and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Isolated Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:58 AM	2:17 PM
Wednesday	-	2:32 AM	3:06 PM
Thursday	-	3:09 AM	3:58 PM
Friday	-	3:48 AM	4:53 PM
Saturday	-	4:33 AM	5:53 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Thundershowers	64° / 54°	
Beijing	Cloudy	81° / 62°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	94° / 83°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°	
London	Partly Cloudy	67° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	69° / 59°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	91° / 83°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	64° / 57°	
Miami	Cloudy	87° / 77°	
New York	Sunny	79° / 56°	
Osaka	Rain	76° / 62°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	74° / 54°	
Busan	Light Rain	69° / 62°	
Rome	Thundershowers	79° / 59°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	80° / 60°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 54°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 63°	
Tokyo	Rain	74° / 63°	
Washington, DC	Rain	75° / 58°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:55 AM	High Tide	1.94	
10:38 AM	Low Tide	0.81	
4:19 PM	High Tide	1.54	
9:58 PM	Low Tide	0.87	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Debt ceiling deal gets thumbs up from biz groups

WASHINGTON (AP)—The reviews are starting to come in as details emerge about the debt ceiling agreement reached by President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Even before seeing those details, some lawmakers were criticizing the deal as not doing enough to tackle the nation's debt, while others worried it's too austere and will harm many low-income Americans.

The legislation will probably need support from a significant number of lawmakers from both parties to clear the closely divided House and gain the 60 votes necessary to advance in the Senate.

Many lawmakers said they were withholding judgment until they see the final details, many which did not come out until Sunday evening. That's when the 99-page bill that resulted from the Biden-McCarthy negotiations was made public.

A look at how the agreement is going over so far:

EARLY CONCERNS

Some of the earliest objections are coming from the most conservative members of Congress, particularly members of



the hardline House Freedom Caucus that often clashes with GOP leadership.

"I think it's a disaster!" tweeted Matt Rosendale, R-Mont.

"Fake conservatives agree to fake spending cuts," tweeted Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky.

"This 'deal' is insanity," tweeted Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C. "A \$4T debt ceiling increase with virtually no cuts is not what we agreed to. Not gonna vote to bankrupt our country. The American people deserve better."

GOP leaders knew all along that they would lose some members' support in any compromise with a Democratic-led White House and Senate. The question has always been whether the deal would pick up enough Democratic support to offset those defections.

DEMOCRATS WEIGH IN

As much as some Democrats dislike what is roughly a spending freeze on non-defense programs next year and chafe at work requirements being extended to more food stamp recipients, initial reaction has been circumspect as they await more details.

Rep. Annie Kuster, D-N.H., and chair of a center-left group known as the New Dems, which

has roughly 100 members, said the group is "confident" that White House negotiators delivered a "viable, bipartisan solution to end this crisis."

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said he believed it was the best deal that could be reached given the demands coming from House Republicans.

"To my colleagues who have serious misgivings about this deal, I say this is far better than defaulting," Coons said.

The likeliest opposition will come from the more liberal members of the caucus. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., has been voicing opposition to additional work requirements for some of those getting food and cash assistance. She called it terrible policy Sunday on

Top Republican debt crisis mediators Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., left, and Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., center, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, with Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, upper right, have a laugh as they stop for questions by reporters on progress in the talks with the Biden administration, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

CNN's "State of the Union."

But she said she is also waiting for legislative text to determine the level of exemptions to the work requirements that Biden was able to win for veterans, homeless people and people coming out of foster care.

"And so what do the numbers look like at the end of the day, I'm not sure," said Jayapal, chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. "However, it is bad policy. I told the president that directly, when he called me last week on Wednesday, that this is saying to poor people and people who are in need that we don't trust them."

Asked if the Democrats at the White House and in the congressional leadership have to worry about whether the progressive caucus will support the bill, Jayapal said: "Yes, they have to worry."

A provision that expedites the approval of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, a natural gas pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia, also adds to the consternation many Democrats will have about the bill. They had succeeded in keeping it out of prior bills, but Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.V., and other members of the West Virginia delegation prevailed in getting it included in the debt limit bill. Environmental groups were harshly criticizing its inclusion Sunday evening.

More businesses require teens to be chaperoned by adults

PARAMUS, N.J. (AP)—Jennifer Sepulveda used to drop off her 14-year-old son, Jorden, at the local mall on a Friday or Saturday night, where he would catch a movie with his friends and then hang out afterwards at the food court or elsewhere.

Not anymore.

Starting April 18, Garden State Plaza in Paramus, New Jersey—the second largest mall in the state—is requiring anyone under 18 years old to be accompanied by a chaperone at least 21 or older on Fridays and Saturdays after 5 p.m.

The move, according to the mall, follows "an increase in disruptive behavior by a small minority of younger visitors." That included a reported brawl in the food court last year and a fight in March that brought swarms of policemen to the center but ended up being a smaller altercation than initially reported.

Sepulveda of Passaic, New Jersey said she was fine with the new policy.

"On Friday and Saturdays, it's just been a madhouse," she said on a recent Friday night while shopping for Mother's Day gifts with Jorden and her 4-month-old daughter.

Jorden, on the other hand, was disappointed. Although he acknowledged the frequent mall fights, he lamented, "It was the main place to go and roam around and hang out with my friends, and I am sad."

Requiring an adult chaperone at malls, at least for certain times of the day, is not new. Mall of America, the nation's largest shopping mall, imposed a chaperone policy back in 1996 and has been increasingly tightening it as recently as 2020 when it mandated that teens be accompanied by adults after 3 p.m. daily.

But experts say Garden State Plaza joins a growing number of shopping centers, amusement parks and even a few restaurants that have implemented similar policies in the last few months ahead of the summer season. And they all cite increased incidents of bad behavior among teens as the reason, some of it inspired by social media like TikTok.

Even a Chik-fil-A franchise in southeast Pennsylvania caused a stir with its social media post earlier this year that announced its policy of banning kids under 16 without an adult chaperone, citing unruly behavior.

Violent crime arrests

among youth had actually been on the decline for years, falling to a new low in 2020, according to the latest federal data. The number of youth homicide victims, however, increased 30% from 2019 to 2020 — the biggest one-year increase since at least 1980, the report found. In the years since 2020, authorities in some areas report a rise in crime among youth, including New York, Washington, D.C. and Colorado.

Many praise chaperone policies as a way to reduce disruptions to business and create a safer shopping environment. But some critics say the new parental controls hurt teens' independence and social development already curbed by pandemic-induced lockdowns.

Shopping malls, hanging out at amusement parks, grabbing a shake at a fast-food joint and watching a movie at a local theater with friends are still long considered the rites of passage to adulthood even as many teens shift to online games and social media. So the question is: What other public spaces can teens congregate to get away from their tablets and phones — as well as their parents?

NYC outlaws discrimination on basis of weight, height

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City Mayor Eric Adams signed legislation Friday that will ban discrimination based on body size by adding weight and height to the list of protected categories such as race, sex and religion.

"We all deserve the same access to employment, housing and public accommodation, regardless of our appearance, and it shouldn't matter how tall you are or how much you weigh," said the mayor, who joined other elected officials as well as fat-acceptance advocates at a City Hall bill-signing ceremony.

Adams, a Democrat who published a book about reversing his diabetes through a plant-based diet, said the ordinance "will help level the playing field for all New

Yorkers, create more inclusive workplaces and living environments, and protect against discrimination."

Exemptions under the ordinance, which the city council passed this month, include cases in which an individual's height or weight could prevent them from performing essential functions of a job.

Some business leaders expressed opposition to the legislation when it was before the council, arguing that compliance could become an onerous burden.

"The extent of the impact and cost of this legislation has not been fully considered," Kathy Wylde, president and CEO of the Partnership for New York City, said in a statement.

Several other U.S. cities have banned discrimination based

on weight and physical appearance, including San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Madison, Wisconsin. And legislation to ban weight and height discrimination has been introduced in states including New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Tigress Osborn, the chair of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, said New York City's weight discrimination ban should serve as a model for the nation and the world.

Osborn said the city's adoption of the new ordinance "will ripple across the globe" and show that "discrimination against people based on their body size is wrong and is something that we can change."

The ordinance will take effect in 180 days, on Nov. 22.

Nation

Joy over end of Title 42 turns to anguish induced by new rules

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—The day that President Joe Biden's administration ended a public health measure blocking many asylum-seekers at the Mexican border during the coronavirus pandemic, Teodoso Vargas was ready to show U.S. officials his scars and photos of his bullet-riddled body.

Instead, he stood frozen with his pregnant wife and 5-year-old son at a Tijuana crossing, feet from U.S. soil.

He was unsure of the new rules rolled out with the change and whether taking the next few steps to approach U.S. officials to ask for asylum in person could force a return to his native Honduras.

"I can't go back to my country," said Vargas, a long scar snaking down his neck from surgery after being shot nine times in his homeland during a robbery. "Fear is why I don't want to return. If I can just show the proof I have, I believe the U.S. will let me in."

Asylum-seekers say joy over the end of the public health restriction known as Title 42 this month is turning into anguish with the uncertainty about how the Biden administration's new rules affect them.

Though the government opened some new avenues for immigration, the fate of



Asylum seeker Teodoso Vargas shows bullet wounds to his torso, after being shot nine times during a robbery in his native Honduras, Monday, May 22, 2023, as he waits to apply for asylum in the border city of Tijuana, Mexico.

many people is largely left to a U.S. government app only used for scheduling an appointment at a port of entry and unable to decipher human suffering or weigh the vulnerability of applicants.

The CBP One app is a key tool in creating a more efficient and orderly system at the border "while cutting

out unscrupulous smugglers who profit from vulnerable migrants," the Department of Homeland Security said in an email to The Associated Press.

But since its rollout in January, the app has been criticized for technological problems. Demand has far outstripped the roughly 1,000 appointments avail-

able on the app each day.

As a Honduran man, Vargas does not qualify for many of the legal pathways the Biden administration has introduced. One program gives up to 30,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and

Venezuelans a month a shot at humanitarian parole if they apply online, have a financial sponsor in the U.S. and arrive by air. Minors traveling alone also are exempt from the rules.

Migrants who do not fol-

low the rules, the government has said, could be deported back to their homelands and barred from seeking asylum for five years.

Vargas said he decided not to risk it. He has been logging onto the app each day at 9 a.m. for the past three months from his rented room in a crime-riddled Tijuana neighborhood.

His experience is shared by tens of thousands of other asylum-seekers in Mexican border towns.

Immigration lawyer Blaine Bookey said for many on the border "there seems to be no option right now for people to ask for asylum if they don't have an appointment through the CBP app."

The government said it doesn't turn away asylum-seekers but prioritizes people who use the app.

Bookey's group, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, is one of the lead plaintiffs, along with the American Civil Liberties Union, challenging some of the new rules in federal court in San Francisco, including a requirement that people first apply for asylum in a country they crossed on the way to the U.S. They are asking the court to allow an asylum request by anyone on U.S. soil.

Why Texas AG's impeachment fight isn't finished yet

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The Texas Legislature already made one historic move with its impeachment of Republican state Attorney General Ken Paxton. Another one is coming.

The GOP-led House of Representatives on Saturday approved 20 articles of impeachment on sweeping allegations of wrongdoing that have trailed the state's top lawyer for years, including abuse of office and bribery. The vote immediately suspended Paxton from office.

But the intraparty brawl in the nation's largest conservative state, one that even drew political punches Saturday from former President Donald Trump, is far from over. The Republican-controlled Senate will hold a trial of Paxton next, and he and his allies hope conservatives there will save him.

One member of that chamber is his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, and she could cast a vote on her husband's political future, which is now in jeopardy in part because of bribery allegations linked to

his extra-marital affair.

THE SENATE

Impeachment in Texas is similar to the process on the federal level: After the House action, the Senate holds its trial.

It is yet to be scheduled.

The House needed just a simple majority of its 149 members to impeach Paxton, and the final 121-23 vote was a landslide. But the threshold for conviction in the Senate trial is higher, requiring a two-thirds majority of its 31 members.

If that happens, Paxton would be permanently barred from holding office in Texas. Anything less means Paxton is acquitted and can resume his third term as attorney general.

Paxton bitterly criticized the chamber's investigation as "corrupt," secret and conducted so quickly that he and his lawyers were not allowed to mount a defense. He also called Republican House Speaker Dade a "liberal."

The Senate is led by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. Like Paxton, he is a Republican who

has closely allied himself with Trump, and he has driven Texas' right-wing political and policy push for the last decade. Patrick has yet to comment on the impeachment or the House's allegations.

The Senate will set its own trial rules, including whether to take witness testimony and what reports and documents to consider. It could also consider whether to excuse Angela Paxton from voting due to conflict of interest.

The impeachment charges include bribery related to one of Paxton's donors, Austin real estate developer Nate Paul, allegedly employing the woman with whom he had the affair in exchange for legal help.

Another Republican senator with a potential conflict is Sen. Bryan Hughes. The House impeachment articles accuse Paxton of using Hughes as a "straw requestor" for a legal opinion used to protect protect Paul from foreclosure on several properties.

State law requires all senators to be present for an impeachment trial.

ACROSS THE NATION

Rescue operations underway after apartment partially collapses in Iowa

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP)—Rescue operations were underway Sunday evening after part of an apartment building collapsed in the eastern Iowa city of Davenport. Authorities have not said whether anyone was killed. Authorities said people were treated for injuries at the scene but did not detail how many. Rescuers were called to the scene shortly before 5 p.m. Sunday. Fire crews rescued seven people and escorted more than a dozen others from the building in their initial response, Davenport Fire Chief Michael Carlsten said at a news conference. Carlsten said the back of the six-story apartment complex collapsed and had separated from the building, which houses apartments on the upper floors and businesses on the ground level. Authorities found a gas leak after the collapse, Carlsten said, while water also had leaked throughout the floors of the structure.

Police: 3 killed in shootout involving outlaw biker gangs in NM

RED RIVER, N.M. (AP)—Three men killed in a weekend shootout at a New Mexico motorcycle rally were members of rival outlaw biker gangs, and the violence stemmed from a previous altercation between them in Albuquerque, authorities said Sunday. New Mexico State Police said three other bikers are facing charges and two of them were among the five wounded in Saturday's shooting involving the Bandidos and the Waterdogs in the mountain resort town of Red River. Those killed were identified as 26-year-old Anthony Silva of Los Lunas, 46-year-old Damian Breau of Socorro and 46-year-old Randy Sanchez of Albuquerque.

Two were declared dead at the scene and the third at a hospital, New Mexico State Police Chief Tim Johnson said in identifying them. Johnson said 30-year-old Jacob Castillo of Rio Rancho will be charged with an open count of murder when he's released from a hospital while 39-year-old Matthew Charles Jackson of Austin, Texas, is facing a charge of unlawful carrying of a firearm inside a liquor establishment.

Suspect arrested in 5 separate shootings in Phoenix that left 4 dead

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—A suspect has been arrested in connection with five separate shootings in the Phoenix metro area that left four people dead and a woman wounded, authorities said Sunday. Mesa police said 20-year-old Iren Byers was taken into custody Sunday on suspicion of four counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted first-degree murder. A motive for the shootings wasn't immediately clear, but police said Byers took responsibility for the shootings and told officers where they could find the clothes and gun used in the crimes. Police said video surveillance footage showed the suspect wearing the clothing reported by witnesses at multiple shooting scenes. The names of the victims were being withheld Sunday until relatives could be notified. It was unclear Sunday if Byers has a lawyer yet who could speak on his behalf. Police said officers were dispatched around 10:30 p.m. Friday to a Mesa park and found a 41-year-old man dead at the scene. While still at the park, police reported hearing shots being fired nearby and searched the area and later found a 36-year-old woman with serious injuries. She remains in stable condition at a hospital.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH warns of flooding, landslide potential as Mawar slowly passes to north

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials began evacuating hundreds of villagers, shut down schools and offices and imposed a no-sail ban Monday as Typhoon Mawar approached the country's northern provinces. The storm, locally named Betty, was not expected to make landfall in the mountainous region. But forecasters warned that the typhoon would slow down considerably off the northernmost province of Batanes from Tuesday to Wednesday and could cause dangerous tidal surges, flash floods and landslides as it blows past. Typhoon Mawar was moving northwest in the Pacific Ocean about 525 kilometers (326 miles) east of the coastal town of Aparri in Cagayan province with maximum sustained winds of 155 kph (96 mph) and gusts of up to 190 kph (118 mph). Mawar tore through Guam last week as the strongest typhoon to hit the U.S. Pacific territory in over two decades, flipping cars, tearing off roofs and knocking down power. It weakened as it blew toward the Philippines. "These typhoons, earthquakes and natural calamities have been a part of our lives," Batanes Vice Governor Ignacio Villa told The Associated Press by telephone. "We cannot afford not to prepare because that would potentially mean the loss of lives and major damages." About 20 typhoons and storms each year batter the Philippine archipelago, which also lies on seismic faults where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur, making the Southeast Asian nation one of the world's most disaster-prone.

S. Korean arrested for opening plane emergency exit door

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A man who opened an emergency exit door during a flight in South Korea was formally arrested Sunday and faces up to 10 years in prison on a charge of violating the aviation security law, officials said. During a preliminary questioning, the 33-year-old told investigators that he felt suffocated and tried to get off the plane quickly, according to police. Twelve people were slightly injured on Friday after he opened the door of the Asiana Airlines Airbus A321-200, causing air to blast inside the cabin and terrifying passengers. Some testified they

suffered severe ear pain and saw others screaming and crying. A video shared on social media shows passengers' hair being whipped by air blowing into the cabin. Normally, the emergency exit doors cannot be opened mid-flight due to the difference in air pressure inside and outside of the aircraft. But during Friday's incident, the man succeeded in opening the door likely because the plane was flying at a low altitude while preparing to land in Daegu on an hour-long flight from the southern island of Jeju with 200 people on board. They included teenage athletes on their way to a track and field competition, according to Asiana Airlines. On Sunday, a district court in Daegu approved a warrant to formally arrest the man. Police earlier sought the arrest warrant, citing the graveness of the crime and a possibility the man may flee, according to Daegu police. "I wanted to get off the plane soon," the man, whose face was covered by a black hoodie, a cap and a mask, told reporters at the court ahead of the review of his arrest warrant. "I'm really sorry to kids," he said, in a likely reference to the teenage athletes. Daegu police said they have up to 20 days to investigate the man before determining whether to send him to prosecutors for a possible indictment.

China plans to land astronauts on moon before 2030

BEIJING (AP)—China plans to land astronauts on the moon before 2030, which would be another advance in what's increasingly seen as a new space race. The U.S. aims to put astronauts back on the lunar surface by the end of 2025. Deputy Director of the Chinese Manned Space Agency Lin Xiqiang confirmed China's goal at a news conference Monday but gave no specific date. Lin also said China plans to expand its orbiting crewed space station with an additional module. A new three-person crew is scheduled to head to the Tiangong station on Tuesday aboard the Shenzhou 16 craft and will overlap briefly with the three astronauts already aboard. The fresh crew includes a civilian for the first time. All previous crew members have been

in the People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the country's ruling Communist Party. Gui Haichao, a professor at Beijing's top aerospace research institute, will join mission commander Jing Haipeng and spacecraft engineer Zhu Yangzhu as the payload expert. China completed the Tiangong space station in November with the third of three modules, centered on the Tianhe living and command module. China's first manned space mission in 2003 made it the third country after the former Soviet Union and the U.S. to put a person into space.

HK denies knowledge about Uyghur student, slams Amnesty for saying he disappeared at airport

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong on Saturday criticized rights group Amnesty International's accusation that a Uyghur student disappeared after being interrogated at the airport, and said that government records showed that he had not entered or been refused entry to the city. Amnesty International said Friday that Abuduwaili Abudurehman, who was born in Xinjiang in western China, had traveled to Hong Kong from South Korea to visit a friend on May 10 but has since gone missing after he texted the friend about being interrogated after his arrival. He spent the last seven years studying in Seoul, completing a Ph.D. in sports and leisure in 2022, according to the group. In a statement, the government strongly condemned Amnesty's "groundless and unfounded remarks" as an attempt to smear it. "In fact, the records of the HKSAR Government show that the person has not entered or been refused entry by Hong Kong," the statement read, referring to the official name of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. "The organization deliberately attacked the HKSAR Government and slandered the human rights situation in Hong Kong without checking the fact."

The government requested an apology from the group. "While Abuduwaili remains missing, we will remain concerned for his safety. His friend who reached out to Amnesty International has still not been able to make contact with him after he sent a message saying he was being questioned by Chinese police at the time of his expected arrival in Hong Kong," Amnesty replied to The Associated Press in response for seeking comment.

World

Russia launched 'largest drone attack' on Kyiv

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's capital was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war, local officials said, as Kyiv prepared to mark the anniversary of its founding on Sunday. At least one person was killed, but officials said scores of drones were shot down, demonstrating Ukraine's air defense capability.

Russia launched the "most massive attack" on the city overnight Saturday with Iranian-made Shahed drones, said Serhii Popko, a senior Kyiv military official. The attack lasted more than five hours, with air defense reportedly shooting down more than 40 drones.

A 41-year-old man was killed and a 35-year-old woman was hospitalized when debris fell on a seven-story nonresidential building and started a fire, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

Debris from a drone damaged the building of the Ukrainian Society of the Blind. On Sunday morning, organization member Volodymyr Golubenko came to pick up his things. He was helped by his son Mykola, who searched for his father's belongings among the rubble and at the same time tried to describe to his father what his office looks like now.

"This wall on the right is destroyed and on left also," said Mykola to his father.

Volodymyr Golubenko worked at this place for more than 40 years. He says it is a home for many blind people, because they come here to talk and support each other.

"If you don't even have a job, it's difficult to get a job now, because these events



In this Feb. 11, 2016 file photo, Iranian drone Shahed-129 is displayed at a rally in Tehran, Iran. AP

(war) have been going on since last year. At least people come here to chat," said Volodymyr.

Like Golubenko, many people in his district heard the sound of Shahed drones for the first time. Among them was 36-year-old Yana, who has three boys. The family hid in a corridor all night.

"Something started to explode above us. The children ran here in fear," said Yana.

Ukraine said that Saturday night was also record-breaking in terms of Shahed drone attacks across the country. Of the 59 drones launched, 58 were shot down by air defense systems, according to the military's General Staff.

Russia has repeatedly launched waves of drone attacks against Ukraine, but most are shot down. Ukraine has also claimed this month to have downed some of Russia's hypersonic Kinzhal missiles, which Russian President Vladimir Putin has touted as providing a key competitive advantage.

In the northeastern Kharkiv province, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said a 61-year-old woman and a 60-year-old

man were killed in two separate shelling attacks.

Kyiv Day marks the anniversary of the city's official founding. The day is usually celebrated with live concerts, street fairs, exhibitions and fireworks. Scaled-back festivities were planned for this year, the city's 1,541st anniversary.

The timing of the drone attacks was likely not coincidental, Ukrainian officials said.

"The history of Ukraine is a long-standing irritant for the insecure Russians," Ukraine's chief presidential aide, Andriy Yermak, said on Telegram.

"Today, the enemy decided to 'congratulate' the people of Kyiv on Kyiv Day with the help of their deadly UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles)," Popko also wrote on the messaging app.

Local officials in Russia's southern Krasnodar region said that air defense systems destroyed several drones as they approached the Ilsky oil refinery. The Russia-backed governor of Luhansk province in Ukraine's far east, Leonid Pasechnik, said two people were killed Sunday in Ukrainian shelling of the town of Almaznaya.

Syria: Suspected Israeli airstrikes target Damascus

BEIRUT (AP) (AP)—Airstrikes attributed to Israel targeted Syria's capital city late Sunday, the first such strikes in nearly a month, Syrian state media reported.

Syrian air defenses responded to the strikes in the vicinity of Damascus and shot down some of them, state news agency SANA reported. The attack caused only "material damage," it said.

The last suspected Israeli airstrike on Syria was on May 2, targeting the international airport in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. The attack killed one Syrian soldier and put the airport out of commission, state media

said at the time.

There was no immediate statement from Israeli authorities regarding Sunday's strikes on Damascus.

Britain-based opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Israeli missiles had targeted sites used by the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which is allied with the Syrian government, and that ambulances had transported people wounded in the strikes.

The observatory said the attack was the 17th by Israel on Syrian territory since the beginning of the year.

Israel, which has vowed to stop Iranian entrenchment next door, has carried out

hundreds of strikes on targets in government-controlled parts of neighboring Syria in recent years, but rarely acknowledges them.

However, Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, said earlier this month in an address at a security conference that the new Israeli government has greatly increased the number of strikes on Iranian targets since taking office late last year.

Last week, an Israeli army spokesperson said in a statement that an Israeli drone conducting a surveillance mission in Syrian airspace "came under fire by small arms" and Israeli forces responded with machine gun fire.

Overdrive

2024 Kia Seltos is a feisty, affordable compact SUV



The 2024 Kia Seltos is built with all-wheel drive, even on the base model.

JAMES LIPMAN/KIA/TNS

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you're looking for an affordable subcompact SUV, there are a number of choices, including the Buick Encore GX, Chevrolet Trax and Trailblazer, Honda HR-V, Nissan Kicks, Subaru Crosstrek, Toyota Corolla Cross, not to mention the Hyundai Kona, an identical cousin to this week's test subject, the Kia Seltos, which, like the Kona, gets a redesign for 2024.

The Seltos was developed when customers started asking Kia to make an all-wheel-drive version of the Soul. But that was not the funky little tidbit's raison d'être. Instead, Kia crafted a small crossover SUV that's purposely built with all-wheel drive, even on the base model. In fact, of the Seltos' different models, which include the LX, S, EX, X-Line and SX, only the S and EX are offered with front-wheel drive.

Which trim level you choose determines how much performance you get. Opting for the Seltos LX, S, and EX nets you a 2.0-liter Atkinson Cycle four-cylinder engine that produces 146 horsepower and 132 pound-feet of torque through a continuously variable transmission (or CVT for short). In contrast, the pricier X-Line and SX receive a markedly mightier 1.6-liter turbocharged four rated 195 horsepower. However, it's mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission, rather than the 2023 model's seven-speed dual clutch transmission. But either is preferable to the base model's CVT.

If you'd like the extra pow-



JAMES LIPMAN/KIA/TNS

The 2024 Kia Seltos' instrument panel features a 10.3-inch touchscreen and a 10.3-inch digital instrument cluster.

er, you will pay at the pump, particularly since both engines require 91 octane gasoline, with the 2.0-liter engine rated by the EPA at 27 mpg city, 31 mpg highway with all-wheel drive, and 28 mpg city, 34 mpg highway front-wheel drive. Turbo models fare slightly worse but are still impressive at 25 mpg city, 27 mpg highway.

But it's worth opting for all-wheel drive, as it uses torque vectoring to maintain the vehicle's path while turning. In other words, when a vehicle corners, the outside and inside wheels turn at different rates, as the outside wheels have more ground to cover than the inside ones in the same amount of time. Handling the dichotomy is a device called the differential, which is employed by the torque vectoring system to distribute torque when needed. It might send extra power to the Seltos' outside corner wheel to tighten its path through a corner and enhance its sporty feel, but it also assists when roads turn slick.

Got all that?

It's certainly apparent once you're behind the wheel, as it pairs perfectly with the Seltos' precise, light steering and modest body lean. The Seltos can handle the majority of bumps, but not all of them, without drama. Abrupt maneuvers fail to bring out tire squeal, making it an entertaining proposition thanks to its poise when pushed hard, revealing higher cornering limits than you might expect in a

mainstream CUV.

Certainly the SX test vehicle had plenty of power; Kia didn't make a base model available, but performance should be adequate. Nevertheless, even in the SX, the three selectable driving modes didn't make a dramatic difference in responsiveness.

But the most conspicuous thing you'll notice when driving the Seltos is what you don't: noise. It's far quieter than the previous model, endowing this little trucklet with a premium air thanks to its laminated windshield. And yes, it comes with a remarkable roster of standard driver-assistance safety systems.

For a subcompact, the inside is spacious and pleasant with plenty of headroom and a sizable cargo area. One negative aspect, which is typical for this class, is that people with long legs find it awkward to sit on the hard side of the center console.

The instrument panel features an easy-to-use 10.3-inch touchscreen and a 10.3-inch digital instrument cluster, along with three standard USB ports. A smartphone digital key is optional on all but the base LX trim, allowing you to leave your key fob at home. The Seltos' software features over-the-air updating, so the Seltos' software should always be current.

Given its \$24,390 starting price, its refinement and tech package, along with a rewarding driving experience lend this Lilliputian the muscle to put up a good fight in this segment.

And why wouldn't it? After all, it's named after Celtus, the son of Hercules.

Taken for a ride?

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Q : I recently went to a local Toyota dealership to have work done that required the wheels to be removed. I thought it would also be a good time to rotate them. I assumed (and inquired) that there would be no additional charge to do the rotation since the wheels were already off. However, I was later told that there would still be a charge. When I mentioned to them that the tires were also purchased there, they said that it didn't matter. Is this a customary practice now or was that just an example of gouging and taking advantage of the customer?

R.W., Coventry, Connecticut

A: I think this is an uncanny and un-customer-friendly practice. It stinks. Somebody who is treated like this can't be blamed for never coming back. If I were the service writer, no matter the rules of the dealership, I would have waived the charge. I would have also sweetened the deal by offering a free lollipop.

■■■

Q: My wife has difficulty seeing approaching cars on the driver's side, especially when entering a highway. We are experimenting with those small stick-on mirrors. We tried a clip-on wide-angle mirror for the interior mirror, and all we could see were headrests. This made me think: If the wide-angle (Objects are closer than they appear) passenger-side mirrors are helpful, why aren't they on the driver's side as well? Personally, I long for the days of fender-mounted mirrors, but those have gone the way of my natural teeth and dark hair.

A.S., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

A: The left (driver's side) mirror reflects an actual image. A convex mirror would show a distortion making it nearly impossible to judge the vicinity of another vehicle. That would be dangerous.

■■■

Q: I have been noticing that a lot of cars have rear turn signals mounted very low at the outer corners of the bodywork. They are invisible in any crowded traffic conditions. This is true for both front and rear corners. Am I the only one who has noticed this? I have (jokingly) told my wife that perhaps Detroit is phasing out turn signals since no one uses them.

J.K., Crest Hill, Illinois

A: I have heard from several readers about the hiding turn signal lights. If you are stopped behind a vehicle like this at a red light, you can't tell if they plan to turn when the light turns green. That's one of the reasons I stop far enough from the vehicle in front of me so that I can see the tires touching the road. Turn signals should not play hide-and-seek.

■■■

Q: My question is, can you overdo the car wash? I have a 2018 Nissan Rogue. Recently a new car wash opened up close to my neighborhood. They had a deal: If you buy a membership for \$25 you could come through the car wash as many times a month as you want. It was pollen season so there were times I was going through every day. It got to be addictive, and I went every time there was a spec on my car. Now I'm starting to see things on my car that were not there before: marks and blemishes. Just how often can you wash your car without ruining the finish or paint?

E.T., Virginia Beach, Virginia

A: There is virtually no limit to the number of times a car can be washed, according to car wash professionals. Of course, it is important that car wash operators replace brushes and stuff regularly. Maybe the marks and blemishes were already there but hadn't gotten the white glove treatment.

Life & Style

‘The Little Mermaid’ makes box office splash with \$95.5M opening

LOS ANGELES (AP)—”The Little Mermaid” made moviegoers want to be under the sea on Memorial Day weekend.

Disney’s live-action remake of its 1989 animated classic easily outswam the competition, bringing in \$95.5 million on 4,320 screens in North America, according to studio estimates Sunday.

And Disney estimates the film starring Halle Bailey as the titular mermaid Ariel and Melissa McCarthy as her sea witch nemesis Ursula will reach \$117.5 million by the time the holiday is over. It ranks as the fifth biggest Memorial Day weekend opening ever.

It displaces “Fast X” in the top spot. The 10th installment in the “Fast and Furious” franchise starring Vin Diesel has lagged behind more recent releases in the series, bringing in \$23 million domestically for a two-week total of \$108 million for Universal Pictures.

In its fourth weekend, Disney and Marvel’s “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3” made an estimated \$20 million in North America to take third place. It’s now made \$299 million domestically.

The performance of “The Little Mermaid” represents something of a bounce-back for Disney’s animated-to-live-action remakes, and makes it likely they will keep coming indefinitely. Poor reception and the pandemic had some recent reboots either performing poorly or skipping theatrical releases for Disney +, including “Dumbo,” “Mulan” and “Pinocchio.”

“It works as long as the movies deliver,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. “It’s great for Disney to be able to go to their archive by reviving these titles that started off as huge hits in the animated realm.”

The opening puts it in the top tier of Disney’s remakes,

with a similar performance to 2019’s “Aladdin,” though it was well short of 2017’s “Beauty and the Beast,” which opened to more than \$170 million, and 2019’s “The Lion King,” which brought in more than \$190 million in its first weekend.

Audiences thought it delivered. The film had an A CinemaScore, and according to exit polling had more ticket buyers between ages 25 and 34 than children, suggesting nostalgic adults were essential.

“The multi generational component of this cannot be overstated,” Dergarabedian said.

Critics were more lukewarm. The movie is currently at 67% on Rotten Tomatoes. In her review, Lindsey Bahr of The Associated Press called it “a somewhat drab undertaking with sparks of bioluminescence” that like too many of the Disney remakes “prioritized nostalgia and familiarity over compel-



DISNEY VIA AP
This image released by Disney shows Halle Bailey as Ariel and Jonah Hauer-King as Prince Eric in “The Little Mermaid.”

Hugh Grant’s lawsuit alleging tabloid’s illegal snooping cleared for trial

LONDON (AP)—A London court on Friday rejected an attempt by the publisher of The Sun tabloid to throw out a lawsuit by actor Hugh Grant alleging that journalists and investigators it hired illegally snooped on him.

Justice Timothy Fancourt said a trial will have to determine whether Rupert Murdoch’s News Group Newspapers carried out unlawful information gathering that included tapping Grant’s home phone, bugging his car and breaking into his home.

“If true—which will be a matter for the trial due to take place in January 2024—these



Grant

allegations would establish very serious, deliberate wrongdoing at NGN, conducted on an institutional basis on a huge scale,” Fancourt wrote. “Of particular relevance ..., they would also establish a concerted effort to conceal the wrongdoing by hiding and destroying relevant documentary evidence, repeated public denials, lies to regulators and authorities, and unwarranted threats to those who dared to make al-

legations or notify intended claims against The Sun.”

During a hearing last month, News Group argued that claims of unlawful information gathering by Grant and Prince Harry should be thrown out because they weren’t brought within a six-year time limit.

The ruling didn’t address the Duke of Sussex’s case because the judge wants to hear more at a hearing in July about Harry’s allegations that he was prevented from bringing his phone hacking claims much sooner because of a “secret agreement” between Buckingham Palace and News Group executives.

ling visual storytelling.”

She said Bailey, half of the sister R&B duo Chloe x Halle, still shone with a “lovely presence” and “superb voice.”

Directed by Rob Marshall with a reported budget of \$250 million before marketing, “The Little Mermaid” tells the story of a yearning, wayward daughter who cuts a devil’s deal to swap her fins for a pair of legs. It features the songs from Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, including “Part of Your World” and “Under the Sea,” that helped the original film spark a Disney animation renaissance in the 1990s.

Fourth place went to Universal’s “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” which keeps reaching new levels in its eighth weekend. Now available to rent on VOD, it still earned \$6.3 million in the-

atres. Its cumulative total of \$559 million makes Mario and Luigi the year’s biggest earners so far.

Comics couldn’t stand up to Ariel as the week’s other new releases sank.

“The Machine,” an action comedy starring stand-up comedian Bert Kreischer, finished fifth with \$4.9 million domestically. And “About My Father,” the broad comedy starring stand-up Sebastian Maniscalco and Robert De Niro, was sixth

with \$4.3 million.

It’s not clear whether “The Little Mermaid” will have legs—or fins—going forward. Next week brings the release of animated “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse,” with “Transformers: Rise of the Beasts” arriving the following week.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

- “The Little Mermaid,” \$95.5 million.
- “Fast X,” \$23 million.
- “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3,” \$20 million.
- “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” \$6.3 million.
- “The Machine,” \$4.9 million.
- “About My Father,” \$4.3 million.
- “Kandahar,” \$2.4 million.
- “You Hurt My Feelings,” 1.4 million.
- “Evil Dead Rise,” \$1 million.
- “Book Club, The Next Chapter,” \$920, 000.

Bridesmaid’s pregnancy adds new stress to wedding plans

DEAR ABBY: I got engaged five months ago, and my wedding date is seven months from now. My soon-to-be sister-in-law and bridesmaid has just announced she’s pregnant with her second child and due a week after our wedding.

I have conflicting emotions. While I’m happy for her family to grow, I can’t help but worry it will detract from my fiancé and me. I’m not sure what to do. Do I keep her as a bridesmaid, one week away from delivery? She might be late, but there’s also a chance she could go into labor before or during our wedding.

Can I replace her so she won’t have to worry about the “what-ifs”? Her husband is a groomsman, so this decision will affect everyone. Should I leave her in and chance it? It breaks my heart to think they might not be able to attend at all. I’m just so overwhelmed, and this is adding to the stress of planning my wedding. Please give me some advice.

WORRIED BRIDE-TO-BE

■■■

DEAR WORRIED: Talk to your about-to-be sister-in-law. It would be difficult to impossible to fit a bridesmaid’s dress on someone whose girth is growing constantly. Add to that the possibility that she may be unable to attend the wedding because of an “early arrival,” and you wouldn’t be normal if you

weren’t concerned.

Offer her the opportunity to fill another role during the ceremony—perform a reading, perhaps. Then be sure to have a backup for her. To do this would not be an insult; it may save your sanity as the big day for each of you approaches.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have four nieces with families who live near me. I see none of them on holidays. I am never invited to spend time with them. They have children who have children, and I understand that they would be involved with each other. We email and keep in contact on Facebook. They know my house is off-limits because my partner is a hoarder and there’s no room.

I hint to them in cards, “Hope to see you over the holidays” or, “Would love to see the great-grandbabies.” (The oldest is 3 and I haven’t seen all four of them since they were born.) My partner is a transgender woman, but I am assured this doesn’t bother them.

I miss them and feel left out of the family even though we email. I am their deceased father’s only sibling left. Should I be more aggressive, or just stop trying? I have other nieces and nephews who live far away and are more interested in me as a human being and an aunt. They say they would like to be with me and love me.

EXCLUDED IN NEW YORK

■■■

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



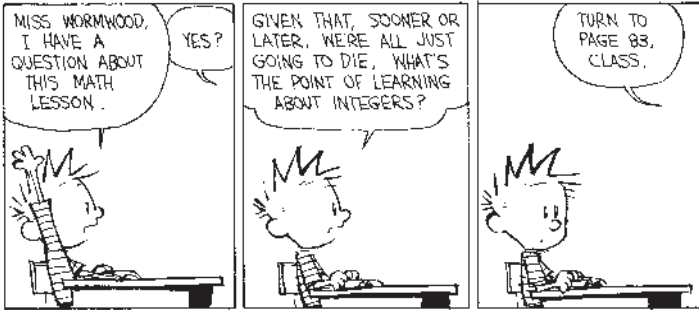
DEAR EXCLUDED: It should be apparent to you that these nieces are ignoring your hints. Could you visit with them in a public place—neither your house nor theirs? It’s worth asking. But if they don’t take you up on it, please, concentrate your efforts on those relatives who treat you with the warmth and caring you deserve.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Prayer
5 Sushi fish
8 Deli scale
12 — ale
13 Chest
14 Utah city
15 Type of
17 Stead
18 Enervate
19 Bakery
21 Amazon
24 "The
25 North
26 Place
30 Comic
31 Smarts
32 Delta's
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35 Impres-

DOWN

1 Suitable
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6 Clothes
7 Arctic
8 Ohio
9 Met
10 Oboe
11 Flightless
16 Ovens
20 Stadium
21 Borscht
22 Ticklish
23 Speed
24 Beef —
26 Element
27 Salt Lake
28 Love
29 Vittles
31 Fairy tale
34 Donkey
35 Big
37 "What
38 Eye part
39 Screen
40 Golden
41 Way out
44 In the
45 By way of
46 Night
47 Dundee

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-30

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Winget, 38; Rory Bushfield, 40; Idina Menzel, 52; Wynonna Judd, 59.

Happy Birthday: Stick to your plan and refuse to let anyone interfere. Your hard work will pay off and enhance your experience and ability to learn something that gives you a competitive edge this year. Spend more time socializing with people heading down a similar path. Change begins with you, and feeling good about your lot in life will attract people who recognize what you have to offer. Your numbers are 8, 14, 23, 30, 36, 44, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sort through your financial papers and see where you can cut costs or how you can bring in more cash. Exploring new ways to capitalize on your skills, experience and knowledge will help you collaborate with like-minded people. Mix business with pleasure. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do more and talk less. Your performance will make a difference to the outcome of whatever you pursue. Update your look, and you'll attract attention and compliments that will lift your spirits. Don't let what others do or say slow you down. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Watch what's trending, and you'll discover something that interests you. A proactive approach will help you gain momentum, build friendships with informative peers and develop the confidence needed to go after your goals. A physical challenge will exhilarate you. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Weigh the pros and cons before you start something new. Look for creative ways to cut cor-

ners. Don't limit what you can do because you lack information. Do your homework and set your sights on what you want to achieve. Romance is favored. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Reach out to people you enjoy working alongside and pitch your latest thoughts and intentions. A group effort will make it easier to reach your goal by adding dimension to your original plan. Put your energy where it has a profound impact. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel the information highway and discover how to make your dreams come true. Ask an expert, sign up for a class or broaden your horizons through hands-on experience. Set a reasonable target and use your intuitive intelligence to achieve your goal. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you open your heart and mind to alternative concepts, something good will transpire. Protect your reputation by not sharing emotional or personal issues. Put your time and energy into helping a cause or building your brand. Look for a way to use your attributes. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll draw people who offer a unique or fresh opinion. A different approach to life, work and romance will point you in a new direction. The change will be eye-opening and help you use your talents constructively. Think outside the box. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Slow down, do the math and figure out the best way forward. Don't learn the hard way; talk to an expert before spending money or time. You can make a quick buck if you sell something you no longer need. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a moment to figure out what you want to achieve. Heading down a path with few guidelines will confuse you. Engage in events that encourage you to connect with people who can offer advice. Resolve an emotional challenge before it's too late. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let someone step in and take over. Don't head in a direction that doesn't appeal to you. Do your own thing and make the most of your day. Make home improvements that complement what you are trying to achieve. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Trust and believe in yourself. Take control of your finances and set up a plan that will help you build equity. Saving for something unique will give you the discipline to follow through until you reach your goal. Romance and creativity are favored. ***

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, enthusiastic and positive. You are trendy and ambitious.

3: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **66:** You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **666:** Focus and you'll reach your goals. **6666:** Aim high; start new projects. **66666:** Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7 3 4 9 6
9 7 3
5 8 2 7 1
3 6 2 4
8 6 9 5
2 7 1 5 3 6
2 8 5 9
5 9 7
6 4 3 5

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6 8 7 9 1 3 2 5 4
5 2 1 8 4 7 3 9 6
3 9 4 5 6 2 8 1 7
4 7 8 3 5 9 1 6 2
9 5 6 2 8 1 7 4 3
2 1 3 4 7 6 5 8 9
8 3 5 6 2 4 9 7 1
7 4 9 1 3 5 6 2 8
1 6 2 7 9 8 4 3 5

Difficulty: ★★ 5/30
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MARK IT IN RED Solution: 4 letters

T R A D E M A R K E S I V E R
I E C N E D I V E N O T I C E
C V A T H G I L H G I H S O M
K A N C O D E R E W S N A M I
E L N E H T I T L E O D L M N
T U O J K E Q P R I C E E E D
N A T O O U T A N G S A T K N E
W T A R O U T A N W S A T R
O E T P B A M I E S E I T S S
D R E R N R L I I Z P L S E T
T O I G I L V W A L F A I T U
N C I F E E G N I K R A M O D
U S N P R O O F R E A D U N E
O O S L O B M Y S C H O O L N
C O R R E C T I O N Y L L A T

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Annotate, Answer, Book, Code, Comments, Confirmation, Correction, Countdown, Detail, Evaluate, Evidence, Fault, Flaw, Highlight, Maps, Marking, Mistake, Notes, Notice, Pens, Price, Project, Proofread, Reminder, Review, Revise, Rubric, Sale, School, Score, Signature, Spelling, Student, Symbol, Tally, Teacher, Ticket, Title, Trademark
Yesterday's Answer: COCONUTS
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6460. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Acuña, Olson star as Atlanta Braves beat Philadelphia Phillies, 11-4



ATLANTA (AP) — Ronald

Acuña Jr. drove in three runs with four hits, including a two-run single in Atlanta's seven-run first inning, and the Braves beat the Philadelphia Phillies 11-4 on Sunday night to split the four-game series.

Matt Olson hit a pair of two-run homers for Atlanta, and Spencer Strider (5-2) became the fastest pitcher in modern history to reach 100 strikeouts in a season.

Acuña hit a run-scoring triple in the fifth before Olson's second homer to center. Acuña had two singles in the first when the Braves sent 11 batters to the plate, collected seven hits and opened a 7-0 lead. Led by Acuña and Olson, who had three hits, the Braves set a season high with 20 hits.

Brandon Marsh and Kyle Schwarber each hit a two-run homer for Philadelphia. Dylan Covey (0-1) got the loss.

RAYS 11, DODGERS 10
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Isaac Paredes homered and drove in four runs as the MLB-best Rays topped the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Luke Raley beat out an infield single leading off the seventh and scored on Wander Franco's grounder, giving the Rays an 11-10 advantage.

Chris Taylor homered twice, and Max Muncy, Trayce Thompson and J.D. Martinez also connected for the Dodgers. Victor González (1-2) was charged with the loss.

Muncy left in the third with a left hamstring cramp, which occurred running the bases. He will have an MRI exam on Monday.

Jalen Beeks (2-2) got the win, and Jason Adam earned his seventh save. Rays closer Pete Fairbanks was warming up in the bullpen but left for the dugout after his hip locked up.

ORIOLES 3, RANGERS 2

BALTIMORE (AP)—Austin Hays singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to cap a three-hit performance, and Baltimore avoided a three-game series sweep.

After Texas tied the game in the top of the eighth, Cedric Mullins opened the bottom half with a walk against Cole Ragans (2-2). Adley Rutschman followed with a single, and Hays greeted Joe Barlow with a sharp grounder up the middle against a drawn-up infield.

Danny Coulombe (2-1) got the win, and Félix Bautista struck out the side in the ninth for his 13th save in 17 tries.

Despite the loss, Texas has won 10 of 14 and gone 8-1-1



Atlanta Braves' Austin Riley (27) celebrates after hitting a solo home run in the first inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Sunday, May 28, 2023, in Atlanta.

in its last 10 series.

YANKEES 10, PADRES 7
NEW YORK (AP)—Anthony Rizzo hit a go-ahead RBI single in New York's seven-run third inning before injuring his neck on a pickoff play.

Rizzo was injured when Kyle Higashioka picked off Fernando Tatis Jr. to end the sixth. As the first baseman leaned back to apply the tag, Rizzo collided with Tatis. Rizzo stayed on the ground for a few minutes and headed back to the clubhouse as the Yankees batted.

The team said Rizzo's exit was for precautionary reasons.

Aaron Judge and Harrison Bader homered for New York. Higashioka had three hits and two RBIs.

Yankees ace Gerrit Cole (6-0) allowed six runs, five earned, and four hits in six-plus innings.

San Diego's Yu Darvish (3-4) was tagged for seven runs and seven hits in 2 2/3 innings.

Jake Cronenworth and Rowned Odor went deep for the Padres.

BLUE JAYS 3, TWINS 0

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Toronto's José Berríos pitched around a season-high five walks and into the sixth inning, beating his old team.

Alejandro Kirk hit a two-run single in the second that held up for Berríos (5-4), who has allowed two or fewer runs in seven of his last nine turns after a rough start.

Daulton Varsho scored from first base on Kirk's hit and was solid in the outfield, a day after he twice had a leaping catch attempt turn into a Twins home run.

Playing center, Varsho assisted on the third out of the fourth when he fielded a single and threw out Alex Kirilloff trying to go from first to third. Then in the eighth, Varsho jumped above the wall to

take a homer away from Carlos Correa.

Jordan Romano recorded his 12th save with a scoreless ninth.

Bailey Ober (3-2) struck out seven while working five innings of two-run ball for Minnesota.

ROCKIES 11, METS 10

DENVER (AP)—Ryan McMahon homered for the third straight game and drove in five runs, powering Colorado to the victory.

McMahon hit a three-run double in a four-run fourth inning against Tylor Megill and a 437-foot, two-run homer to center field off Stephen Nogosek (0-1) an inning later. Colorado erased a 6-2 deficit to take two of three in the series and complete a 5-2 homestand.

Charlie Blackmon also went deep for Colorado, and Peter Lambert (1-1) got the win.

Francisco Álvarez and Francisco Lindor homered for the Mets. Tommy Pham finished with three hits and four RBIs.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, RED SOX 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Merriell Kelly struck out 10 and Corbin Carroll hit a two-run homer, helping Arizona to the win.

Carroll hit a two-run homer off Tanner Houck (3-4) in the first. Geraldo Perdomo added a solo shot in the second to stake Kelly to a 4-0 lead.

Kelly (6-3) matched a career high by striking out six batters looking, one short of the Diamondbacks' record. He allowed a run and four hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Justin Turner hit a solo homer for Boston in the eighth inning against Kyle Nelson, but Miguel Castro worked around an infield

single in the ninth for his fifth save in six chances.

ASTROS 10, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Yordan Alvarez hit two of Houston's seven homers, and the Astros handed the Athletics their 11th consecutive loss.

Alvarez homered off opener Ken Waldichuk in the first, then hit another solo shot off Garrett Acton in the ninth, right after Jeremy Peña went deep. It was the second multi-homer game this week by Alvarez and the 15th of his career.

Jose Altuve had three hits, including his first homer of the season after missing Houston's first 43 games with a fractured right thumb. The Astros won for the 14th time in 17 games.

Houston's Cristian Javier (6-1) allowed one run and four hits in five innings.

Ryan Noda homered for Oakland. Luis Medina (0-4) got the loss.

BREWERS 7, GIANTS 5

MILWAUKEE (AP)—William Contreras homered and drove in three runs, powering the Brewers to the win.

Owen Miller had two hits, scored twice and drove in two runs as Milwaukee salvaged the finale of the four-game series. Brian Anderson had two RBIs, and Christian Yelich walked twice and scored two runs.

The NL Central leaders were shut down by the Giants in the previous three games, only managing two runs and 13 hits.

Mike Yastrzemski and Blake Sabol homered for San Francisco, which had won three straight and 10 of 12 overall. Alex Cobb (4-2) was tagged for seven runs and seven hits in four innings in one of his worst starts of the season.

Milwaukee's Colin Rea

(2-3) was charged with four runs and five hits in six-plus innings. Devin Williams got four outs for his eighth save.

REDS 8, CUBS 5

CHICAGO (AP)—Matt McLain had a career-high four hits in his 12th big league game, and Cincinnati completed a three-game series sweep.

Spencer Steer hit a two-run homer in Cincinnati's fourth win in its last five games. Kevin Newman reached five times on two singles and three walks, and Nick Senzel had two hits and two RBIs.

Cincinnati outscored Chicago 25-10 in the weekend set. The Reds totaled 14 hits in the finale against their NL Central rival.

Patrick Wisdom homered twice and drove in five runs in Chicago's fourth straight loss. Drew Smyly (5-2) permitted five runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Cincinnati starter Graham Ashcraft (3-3) pitched five innings of three-run ball in his first win since April 15. Alexis Diaz worked the ninth for his 12th save.

MARLINS 2, ANGELS 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Nick Fortes homered, rookie Eury Pérez pitched five innings and Miami concluded its 10-game road trip with a series sweep of the Angels.

Pérez (2-1) and five Miami relievers combined on a five-hitter that ended the Angels' majors-best streak of 94 consecutive games without a shut-out loss since Aug. 21, 2022.

JT Chargois allowed two hits and a walk in the ninth, but he retired Mike Trout on a game-ending popup to second with two runners in scoring position. Chargois earned his first save in 173 appearances during a major league career that began in 2016.

The Marlins have won four of five. They finished 5-5 on their trip.

Patrick Sandoval (3-4) pitched six innings of two-run ball for Los Angeles.

MARINERS 6, PIRATES 3, 10 INNINGS

SEATTLE (AP)—Eugenio Suárez hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning, and the Mariners beat the Pirates for their sixth win in seven games.

The Mariners opened a 3-1 lead with the help of solo homers by Julio Rodríguez and Cal Raleigh, but blew it in the eighth with an error and a wild pitch. Suárez was 0 for 3 before hitting his sixth homer off Robert Stephenson (0-3).

The Pirates have lost four of five and have not won a series in May.

Taylor Saucedo (1-0) pitched the 10th for the win, striking

out Ke'Bryan Hayes to get out of a bases-loaded jam.

The Mariners are three games above .500 for the first time this season.

GUARDIANS 4, CARDINALS 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—José Ramírez hit a two-run double with two out in the ninth inning, lifting the Guardians to the victory.

Ramírez's clutch hit off Ryan Helsley (3-4) rolled to the wall in right-center, scoring Myles Straw and Steven Kwan, who had drawn one-out walks.

The swing touched off a wild celebration for the Guardians, who have struggled to get clutch hits throughout the first two months of the season. Cleveland's players stormed out of the dugout to playfully pound Ramírez, who threw his helmet high into the air between second and third base.

Xzavion Curry (1-0) pitched three scoreless innings for his first major league win.

Paul Goldschmidt hit one of three solo homers for St. Louis in the fifth inning.

TIGERS 6, WHITE SOX 5, 10 INNINGS

DETROIT (AP)—Eric Haase hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, sending Detroit to the win.

Alex Lange (3-0) pitched a scoreless top of the 10th for the win. In the bottom half, Spencer Torkelson began the inning on second as the automatic runner and advanced on Jonathan Schoop's fly ball off Reynaldo López (4-4).

Alkil Baddoo was intentionally walked before Haase's fly ball to deep center.

Baddoo hit a grand slam in the third inning off Dylan Cease. Detroit tied it at 5 on Javier Báez's grounder to short-stop against Joe Kelly.

Chicago scored four runs in the seventh. Eloy Jiménez hit a two-run double, and Andrew Vaughn added a sacrifice fly.

ROYALS 3, NATIONALS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Michael Massey drove in MJ Melendez with a game-ending single for Kansas City with two out in the ninth inning.

Melendez hit a solo homer in the seventh and Edward Olivares connected for a tying solo shot in the eighth. Olivares' 452-foot drive damaged a scoreboard in left field, leaving it smoking.

In the ninth, Melendez reached on a one-out error by first baseman Dominic Smith. He then scampered home when Massey lined a single into right off Chad Kuhl (0-3).

Scott Barlow (2-3) pitched a scoreless ninth inning for the win.

NBA Finals berth at stake as Heat, Celtics prepare for Game 7



BOSTON (AP)—Moments after Boston's dramatic win at Miami on Saturday night, Jaylen Brown began thinking about the future. He raised his hands, put up seven fingers and began yelling, "Game 7! Game 7!"

Game 7, indeed.

Brown and Boston are on the brink of history after Derrick White's buzzer-beating putback lifted the Celtics to a 104-103 victory over the Heat in Game 6. One of the league's most storied franchises is trying to become the first team in NBA playoffs history to overcome a 3-0 deficit to win a best-of-seven series.

Next up is one more game in the Eastern Conference finals on Monday night in Boston. And it looks as if the back-and-forth series could be on its way to an epic conclusion.

The Celtics are the fourth NBA team to erase a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series and force a deciding game. The previous three teams—the 1951 New York Knicks in the NBA Finals, the 1994 Denver Nuggets in the second round and the 2003 Portland Trail Blazers in the first round—lost Game 7, all on the road.

"We've got another chance, another opportunity," said Jayson Tatum, who had 31 points, 11 rebounds and five assists in Game 6 to join Larry Bird as the only other Celtic with double-digit playoff games with at least 30 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. "It's far from over. Still an uphill battle. But it always feels good to give yourself another chance, another opportunity."



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum celebrates after the Celtics beat the Miami Heat 104-103 during Game 6 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals, Saturday, May 27, 2023, in Miami.

Boston is looking to extend a wild postseason ride that already includes five wins when facing elimination—twice in the East semifinals after falling behind 3-2 to the 76ers, and now three straight times against the Heat.

The Celtics are 27-9 in Game 7s and have won their last four—including a 112-88 win against Philadelphia in the previous round that featured Tatum breaking out for 51 points, the most in a Game 7 in NBA history. Boston also beat the Heat in Game 7 in Miami in last year's East finals when Jimmy Butler missed what

would have been a go-ahead 3-pointer with about 17 seconds left.

The Heat are 6-5 all-time in Game 7s, losing their last two. Miami is 0-2 when facing such a game on the road.

The winner of Sunday's matchup will advance to face the Western Conference champion Denver Nuggets in the NBA Finals.

Despite being denied a finals berth in three straight games, Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said his message to the team after Saturday's loss was just to focus on the next game. Let the past be the past.

"Let's just rally around each other," Spoelstra said. "These are emotional games and things can swing in that Game 7. The pressure can go back and forth in Game 7s quite a bit. We're not going anywhere."

But what may be most concerning for the Heat heading into Monday is the Celtics—typically reliant on their ability to make 3-point shots—were able to pull out Saturday's win despite making a playoff-low 7 of 35 attempts from deep.

In addition, until Butler's incredible flurry of 10 points in just over two minutes to

put the Heat in front, he was mostly a non-factor on a night in which he went just 5 of 21 from the field. Over the past three games Butler has shot a combined 19 of 55.

He said it hasn't shaken his resolve to do what he can to prevent what would be a disappointing finish for Miami.

"You're going to get the same test until you pass it, I swear," Butler said. "We were in this same position last year. We can do it. I know that we will do it. We've got to go on the road and win in a very, very, very tough environment."

That environment just happens to be the city that is home to the first—and still only—team in Major League Baseball history to pull off a 3-0 series comeback.

That squad, the 2004 World Series champion Red Sox, rallied from that hole in the American League Championship Series against the rival New York Yankees.

David Ortiz, the 2004 ALCS MVP, said it makes sense that the Celtics are in position to pull off what has previously been unthinkable.

"Yeah, and there'd be no better time than this one for that happen," Ortiz said in an interview with The Associated Press. "If you do it in basketball, it's got to be the same city."

The Celtics are just 5-5 at home during these playoffs, but there is no place there would rather be with their season on the line.

"It's going to be huge. The best two words in sports is 'Game 7,'" Brown said. "And our home crowd, I know they're going to bring the energy. So, I'm excited."

There was no word on the status of Boston guard Malcolm Brogdon for Game 7. The NBA Sixth Man of the Year missed Saturday night's win with a right forearm strain.

Boston's reserves were outscored 22-11 in Brogdon's absence. Robert Williams III went to the locker room late in the second quarter with a left wrist injury, but he returned in the second half and finished with 10 points and seven rebounds in 17 minutes on the night.

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Nuggets had all the ingredients for an NBA Finals run this season—Nikola Jokic's all-around greatness, Jamal Murray's sweet ball handling, Michael Porter Jr.'s board crashing and arc accuracy, Aaron Gordon's above-the-rim brilliance.

The only thing missing was big-game experience.

Enter Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, who won a title with the Los Angeles Lakers inside the NBA bubble in 2020.

The Nuggets acquired the sharp-shooting swingman along with veteran guard Ish Smith from the Washington Wizards last July in exchange for Monte Morris and Will Barton.

KCP, the quiet-until-he-needs-to-be player with a lethal outside shot, has been the calming presence on this squad that has sent Karl-Anthony Towns, Anthony Edwards, Kevin Durant, Devin Booker, Anthony Davis and LeBron James on early va-

KCP's championship pedigree was missing link in Nuggets' drive to Finals

cations and has designs on adding either Jimmy Butler or Jayson Tatum to that mix when the NBA Finals finally get here June 1.

"He's just the ultimate leader, ultimate professional, comes in every day and works extremely hard, holds everyone accountable," said fellow 2022-23 addition Bruce Brown Jr. "But he is the only one on this team who has won a championship. He knows what it takes and what we need to do. So, we gotta listen to that guy."

Teammates and coaches say KCP isn't so much in your face as he's in your ear, dispensing advice, tips, guidance, encouragement and caution along the way as the Nuggets navigate a championship road they've never been down.

"I do it vocally, just talking, bringing that championship mentality that I have to my team now," Caldwell-Pope said, "and just tell them in moments like if they go on

a run, it's not the end of the day. Let's just get back to doing what we do. Like I say, it's all about being patient, being ready and defending."

The Nuggets' four-game sweep of the Lakers secured the franchise's first Western Conference title and sent the Nuggets to their first NBA Finals appearance in their history and to their first championship series since they lost to Julius Erving and the New York Nets 4-2 in the ABA's last season in 1976.

Those two teams, along with the Indiana Pacers and San Antonio Spurs, joined the NBA in 1976-77 when the ABA disbanded. All the others reached the NBA Finals long before the Nuggets, who are appearing in their first league championship in their 47-year history.

They might not have made it without KCP, whose on-the-court contributions are what Nuggets superstar Jokic appreciates the most.

Caldwell-Pope was an integral part of the Lakers' championship run in 2020, averaging 10.7 points and starting in all of LA's 21 playoff games. He helped the Lakers beat the Nuggets in five games for the Western Conference title in the bubble.

What he's brought the Nuggets isn't just that championship pedigree but performance, Jokic said Saturday.

"Yes, he won a championship, but the best thing about KCP is he knows exactly what to do and where to be," Jokic said. "And he's doing that in the first game, the 70th game, the playoff game, Finals game, whatever game, he always does what he's supposed to do and I think that's the best way to describe him."

Whether he's doling out tips or quietly going about his business, KCP has been a big part of the Nuggets' longest playoff drive in their history.

He's averaged 11.7 points a game, up from 10.8 in the

regular season, and 3.2 rebounds, up from 2.7, while reducing his turnovers from 1.1 to 0.7.

He's turned in some of his best work these playoffs on defense.

"I feel like I'm always on a tough matchup," Caldwell-Pope said. "I pride myself on my defense. I look forward to being able to just get stops."

Which is why he said when the Nuggets opened the playoffs after a week's rest—two days shorter than their layoff before the NBA Finals begin Thursday night—that defense would be the primary driver to hoisting the Larry O'Brien Trophy.

The Nuggets sent James and the Lakers packing when Murray tied up the Lakers star on a drive to the basket and Gordon blocked the shot, securing Denver's 113-111 win in Game 4 for the franchise's first playoff series sweep in its history.

After their 25-point blow-

out of the Suns in Phoenix in Round 2, Jokic said the Nuggets were so focused they looked like a championship team. Then he caught himself: "Well, I guess I don't know how a championship team looks. But I think that was how it's supposed to look."

Caldwell-Pope is the only Nugget who knows what winning an NBA ring feels like.

"Everybody wants one," Caldwell-Pope said. "That's the goal, to become a champion in this league. It's one of the hardest things to do."

He's told his teammates that not only will it forever define them, it'll forever change them.

"It changed me a lot, just as far as me being that leader that I am now," he said. "And just being able to be focused in the moments as a professional and as a leader, you know, get my teammates focused and ready to play."

It's a feeling he wants them all to experience in the coming days.

Salalila, Maratita have most HRs in BASA league

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

The Lady Blue Jays' Rachel Salalila and Sufa's Audie Maratita have the most home runs so far in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League as of May 21.

Salalila has four big ones of her own, while Maratita has seven.

Behind Salalila in the women's division is Nish Mario with three; Kiana "Baby K" Camacho, Bong Babauta, and Edilyn Benjamin are tied with two, while nine players are tied with one each.

Second to Maratita is Joey Dela Cruz with six; and Manny Sablan, Jeff Cruz, Mike Techur, and Pat Guerrero are tied with five each.

The batting leader in the women's division is the Lady Blue Jays' Kiana Camacho with 17 hits out of 28 at-bats for a .607 batting average. Tied in second is the Lady Legals' Almina Deleon Guerrero

and Lady Sufa's Ashley Angui with a .579 average and 19 for 11 at-bats; third is Rosie Saralu from the Hot Shots with a .577 average from 15 out of 26 at-bats.

Kiana Camacho is tied with Tiah Camacho with the most runs scored with 12 each; Janica Lizama, Pauline Camacho, and Salalila have 11 each; and Almina DLGuerrero, Edilyn Benjamin, Nish Mario, and Rayna Deleon Guerrero have 10 each.

Kiana Camacho also has the most doubles with five; and Janica Lizama and Sheena Maratita have three each; while nine players are tied with two each.

The most RBIs also belong to Kiana Camacho with 14; Janica Lizama, Nish Mario, and Rachel Salalila have 11; and Almina DIGuerrero, Edilyn Benjamin, and Lem Ogu-moro have eight each.

The most triples went to Mardina Kaipat with three; and Janica Lizama, Lem Ogu-moro, Rosie Saralu, and Stacey Eno have two each.



In this file photo, Sufa's Audie Maratita waits for a pitch and is currently the homerun leader in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League as of May 21.

The pitching leader is the Lady Blue Jays' Angel Deleon Guerrero who has four wins

and no losses, a 2.74 ERA, 26 hits and nine earned runs against her in her 23 innings

pitched. Second is the Lady Legals' Jovie Omar with a 3.03 ERA, 4-3 record, 66 hits against her and 16 ER in 37 innings pitched; third is the Hot Shots' Janice Celis with a 3.04 ERA, a 4-4 record, 46 innings pitched, 20 ERs, and 87 hits against her.

The most strikeouts so far goes to Janice Celis with 36; right behind her is 35 by Jovie Omar; 34 by Sonia Isaac; 24 by Evita Marafita; 17 by Bert Camacho; and 12 by Seme-rina Simram.

In the men's division, Maratita also leads the most RBIs with 23; Joey Dela Cruz has 22; Glen Camacho and Pat Guerrero have 19 each; Mike Techur has 18; and Robert Bansil and Eric Palacios have 17 each.

The most runs scored is Joe Lizama with 19; Dennis Cruz and Lefty Shiro have 18; Ben Mesa, Eric Palacios, James "Dog" Fleming, and Roy Tudela have 16 each; and 15 for Paul Salalila and Robert Bansil.

Tim Wesley and Dennis Cruz are tied at eight for the most doubles; (7) James Flem-

ing has seven; Glen Camacho has six; and Joe Lizama and John Taitano have five each.

The triples king is Ben Higgins with four; Jaimi Reyes and Tim Wesley have three; and Dominic Hideo, Joe Lizama, and Ben Mesa have two each.

Eric Palacios is the batting leader with a .752 batting average from 19 hits out of 24 at-bats; second is Darwin Masaharu with a .700 average from 21 out of 30 at-bats; and third is Maratita with a .692 average with 18 hits out of 26 chances.

The pitching leader is Eric David with a 2.63 ERA, two wins, 37 hits, 6 ER, and 36 innings pitched; second is Paul Salalila with three wins, a 2.67 ERA, 35 hits, eight ER, and 21 innings pitched; third is Mario Aguon with a 2-0 record, a 4.08 ERA, 23 hits, seven ER, and 12 innings pitched.

The most strikeouts goes to Ken Kaipat with 32; Henry Reyes is a close second with 31; Leo Iskawa and Ray Villagomez have 20 each; Dominic Hideo has 19; and Deron Flores and Bruce Laniyo have 15 each.

PICKLEBALL

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getting better." His son, Daniel, held clinics in March and Scott said, "He had told me everybody was a little bit new, but I felt like they are pretty good... There's a lot of intense, really teachable people, so I thought that was good."

On the players who took his first clinic, he said "Everybody's very enthusiastic. Unfortunately, we had a little rain, but I got to teach them more strategy than normal—not as much technique, but strategy—because in the long run, I think it's maybe more helpful to learn the strategy—the mental side. Pickleball is so mental, so strategic."

"They were asking great questions, very curious, wanting to learn. So I felt like their level of concentration and intake was really high. They had good questions," he said.

As for the future of pickleball in the Marianas based on what he saw in his time here, he said "it's going to keep growing and

growing, but they need more courts. Hopefully the government will help or something. It's going to bring tourism from all over the world. People are happier and healthier, so I hope the Saipan government will also contribute and help create more courts, because that's one of the barriers to growth—you need more courts."

Pastor Eric Abragan, who has been playing pickleball for less than a year, said the clinic was a great learning experience. "We got to learn from a pro and from a champion. So, it was very practical, about 10 tips and something that you may have learned before but a lot are new also."

"What stood out to me was his tip about the drop shots and then helping me win the shots after, because that's one of our weaknesses," he said.

As for Bart Jackson, he said "the clinic was great. I've been playing pickleball regularly for a year now and you can obviously learn a lot by playing... but it was great to hear a pro talk about the game in very

different terms about the strategic part of the game, which nobody ever talks about. If you really want to be a better player, you have to incorporate that into your game. Just hitting a drop shot or a dink shot is great, but if you don't hit it to the right place, it doesn't do you any good. So the strategy of it is what I learned so much and just to hear him talk about what's important to be a good pickleball player is really so useful."

T.J. Hill, who took the clinic with his wife, said "there was no shortage of good information, good demonstration, and good feedback as he watched us practice and go through the drills." As for being coached by a pro, he said "it doesn't get any better than this. His son Daniel was here before and we had the opportunity to do the clinic with him also, so we got both sides—we got the best of both worlds here. A lot of the things that Daniel did in his clinic were reinforced in Scott's clinic."

Moore, who's 61 years old, has been playing pickleball for

the past 12 years. He is widely regarded as the No. 1 senior male player in the world. In 2018, he and his son Daniel won the 19+ division at the

OL'ACES

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again after Ol'Aces' leading scorers, Airson Atan and Douglas Schmidt, led them to victory as they scored 27 and 24 points, respectively.

Daryl Foronda was the only player to score 20 points and led New Chang Ming, while Gerald Flores had 18 markers of his own.

New Chang Ming could've swayed the game in their favor in many instances, but could not capitalize and crucial fouls on Ol'Aces players allowed them to pull away into the top finals spot for the championship game.

The second game of the day was between Team Marianas and Save More, which Team Marianas won, 93-80.

Team Marianas then played against New Chang Ming

Northwest Regional tournament in Bend, Oregon, and less than a month later, he and his son Jon won the Italian Open.

He has won six Triple

last Sunday with the results to follow. The winner of that game will face off in the championship round against a waiting Martech-Ol'Aces at 6pm tonight.

Team Marianas' Coby Santos showed his dominance on the court once again and led the CNMI National Basketball pool of players with his 21 markers. Right behind him is Ervin Villarin with 18 points and Jack Aranda with 16.

Save More were pushed out of contention as they failed to stage a comeback after falling behind by 15 points heading into the last quarter.

They could not close the gap as Team Marianas mounted point after point and Save More's top shooters Jet Jandoc's 20 points, Joseph Torres' 15 points, and John Mejarito's 13 markers were not enough to stay in the playoffs.

Crowns, 20 USAPA Nationals gold medals, and 12 U.S. Open gold medals. He leaves Saipan today but plans on returning again.

First Game

Martech Ol'Aces 97 – Air. Atan 27, Schmidt 24, Brungard 17, Lizama 10, Aif, Atan 10, Kabiriel 4, Barcinas 4, Basa 1.

New Chang Ming 92 – Foronda 20, Flores 18, Asauo 15, Pastrana 14, Deleon Guerrero 7, Cruz 6, Gontar 6, Aimario 4, Aspasan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-21, 51-46, 71-65, 97-92.

Second Game

Team Marianas 93 – C. Santos 21, Villarin 18, Aranda 16, G. Sablan 9, Aldan 8, Garcia 6, K. Santos 6, Richardson 4, Hocog 2, Brennan 2, J. Sablan 1.

Save More 80 – Jandoc 20, Torres 15, Mejarito 13, Ibe 13, Bernardo 9, Genese 5, Tekiupua 4, Dancel 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-20, 44-37, 69-54, 93-80.

OVER

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The local organizing committee and athletics federation demonstrated an outstanding record in hosting major international competitions with the Mini Games.

Over 100 athletes will take part in the Oceania Cup, representing six teams from across the Pacific. Oceania Athletics has selected teams representing each region of the Pacific—Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia, with the Northern Marianas and Australia the only two federations having

their own team.

Robin Sapong, president Oceania Athletics and general secretary Northern Marianas Athletics, had the following to say about the Oceania Cup on Saipan.

"First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt hafa adai and tirow to the people of Saipan and to those who will be traveling from far and wide for the Oceania Cup. The Oceania Cup being hosted on Saipan, is a fantastic legacy of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games. To be able to build on what took place in 2022 and put toward another international

competition in 2023 shows the capabilities of the local organizing committee."

The competition itself will be outstanding, with 12 gold medalist from the 2022 Mini Games coming back to Saipan. The Oceania Cup also provides an opportunity to qualify for Budapest World Championships and Paris Olympics, with the same number of ranking points as the 2023 Pacific Games.

The Micronesian Team will be headlined by Olympians Regine Tugade-Watson and Scott Fiti. The sprinters are both multiple representatives

at World and Oceania Level multiple medallists at the Micronesian Games in 2018.

The Melanesian Team will see a changing of the guard in the sprint ranks, with Leroy Kamau and Leonie Beu, of PNG, with some fast times whilst in college in the USA securing their place on the Melanesian Team.

The Polynesian Team sees area champion in the shot put, Atamaama Tuutafaiva leading the team. She has recently moved to Auckland to be coached by Oceania's greatest athlete, Dame Valerie Adams, and will be look-

ing for a strong showing in Saipan, to help to improve her world ranking in the hopes of qualifying for the Budapest World Championships. World Championships representative for French Polynesia Herieti Bernardino will be in the women's sprints, while Olympian from Tuvalu Karalo Maibuca will be in the men's sprints.

The Australian team will see an emerging group of athletes make the journey to Saipan. A total of 16 athletes will be representing their islands for the first time at Ole-ai track & field.

The home team will be looking for the support they received in 2022 at the Pacific Mini Games, with the team led by multiple World Championships representative Zariane Sapong. The Micronesian Games 200m champion from 2018 will go in the sprints, whilst Pacific Mini Games medallist Orrin Phamin and Dennis Borja lead a strong male contingent for the home side.

Some member federations have taken the opportunity to send extra athletes to Saipan, in preparation for the Pacific Games in Honiara. (PR)



Acuña, Olson star
as Atlanta Braves
beat Philadelphia
Phillies, 11-4.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Salalila, Maratita
have most HRs in
BASA league.

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20 TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pickleball pro treats players with clinics, exhibitions



LEIGH GASES

Pickleball pro Scott Moore, right, conducts his second pickleball clinic yesterday morning at the American Memorial Park courts during his first visit to Saipan.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Pickleball pro Scott Moore treated CNMI pickleball players with a two-day clinic, some tips, and exhibition games at the American Memorial Park courts during the Memorial Day weekend.



Moore made it safely to Saipan via South Korea last Friday just as Typhoon Mawar left a wake of destruction in Guam and just barely spared Saipan. He was supposed to hold a few clinics on Guam as well but had to cancel it until next time and was invited here by the Pickleball Federation of the North-

ern Mariana Islands.

After his first pickleball clinic on Sunday evening with eight pickleball players, Moore gave a few tips to the star-struck pickleball players at the courts as their games were delayed due to rain.

Moore said of Saipan's level of play, "They're not bad. People are taking it seriously and

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Ol'Aces first to Michelob Cup finals

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Martech-Ol'Aces is the first team to make it into the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League when their playoffs resumed after Typhoon Mawar last Saturday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces had their work cut out for them against contender New Chang Ming Market in the first game of the afternoon when they won a close 97-92 game.

It was all Ol'Aces in the first and second quarter as New Chang Ming tried to navigate the tight defense and

screens of Ol'Aces.

Heading into the third quarter, however, New Chang Ming changed tactics and pushed a more defensively aggressive game and came away with a few steals to catch up to Ol'Aces by just five points.

Ol'Aces could not get past 71 points and New Chang Ming was chugging quickly after them and after a free throw was made by Tyrik Basa, they were stuck at 72 points. New Chang Ming's Shane Deleon Guerrero could've made it 72-72 but missed his free throws.

They found their groove
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LEIGH GASES

Martech Ol'Aces' Douglas Schmidt attempts to block New Chang Ming's Gerald Flores during their playoff game of the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Over 100 confirmed for next month's Oceania Cup

With less than a month to go before the Oceania Cup, Oceania Athletics and the local organizing committee are pleased to announce the teams heading to Oleai Stadium on Saipan in the Northern Marianas.

The Oceania Cup has been brought back into the calendar in Oceania to align with the Oceania and World Athletics strategic plan to create inspiring competitions. The teams-based format is

aimed to improve the performance standards and support the member federations opportunity for qualification opportunities.

This will be the fourth edition after previously being hosted by Vanuatu, Samoa, and Australia. The Oleai Sports Complex on Saipan was the venue for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games and is currently the best facility in the Pacific.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 100 athletes will take part in the Oceania Cup, representing Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia, the Northern Marianas, and Australia.